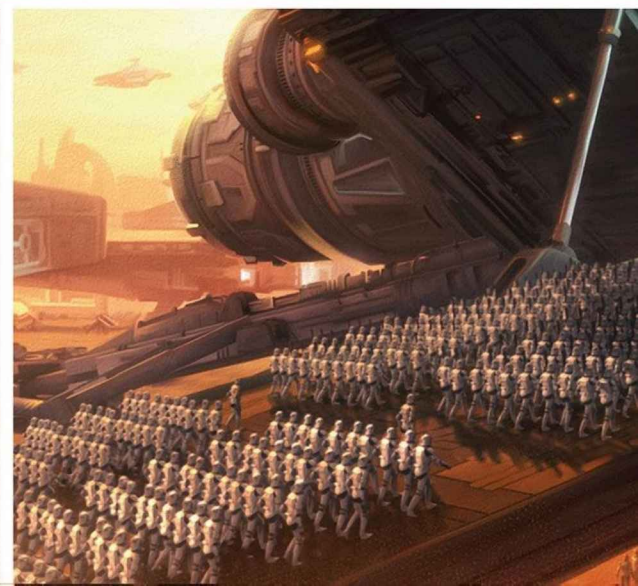




STAR WARS™

ATTACK OF THE CLONES



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STAR WARS™

ATTACK OF THE CLONES

Based on the story and screenplay by

George Lucas

Illustrations by

Brian Rood



LOS ANGELES • NEW YORK

THE STAR WARS SAGA

TIMELINE



THE PHANTOM MENACE



ATTACK OF THE CLONES



REVENGE OF THE SITH



A NEW HOPE



THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK



RETURN OF THE JEDI



THE FORCE AWAKENS

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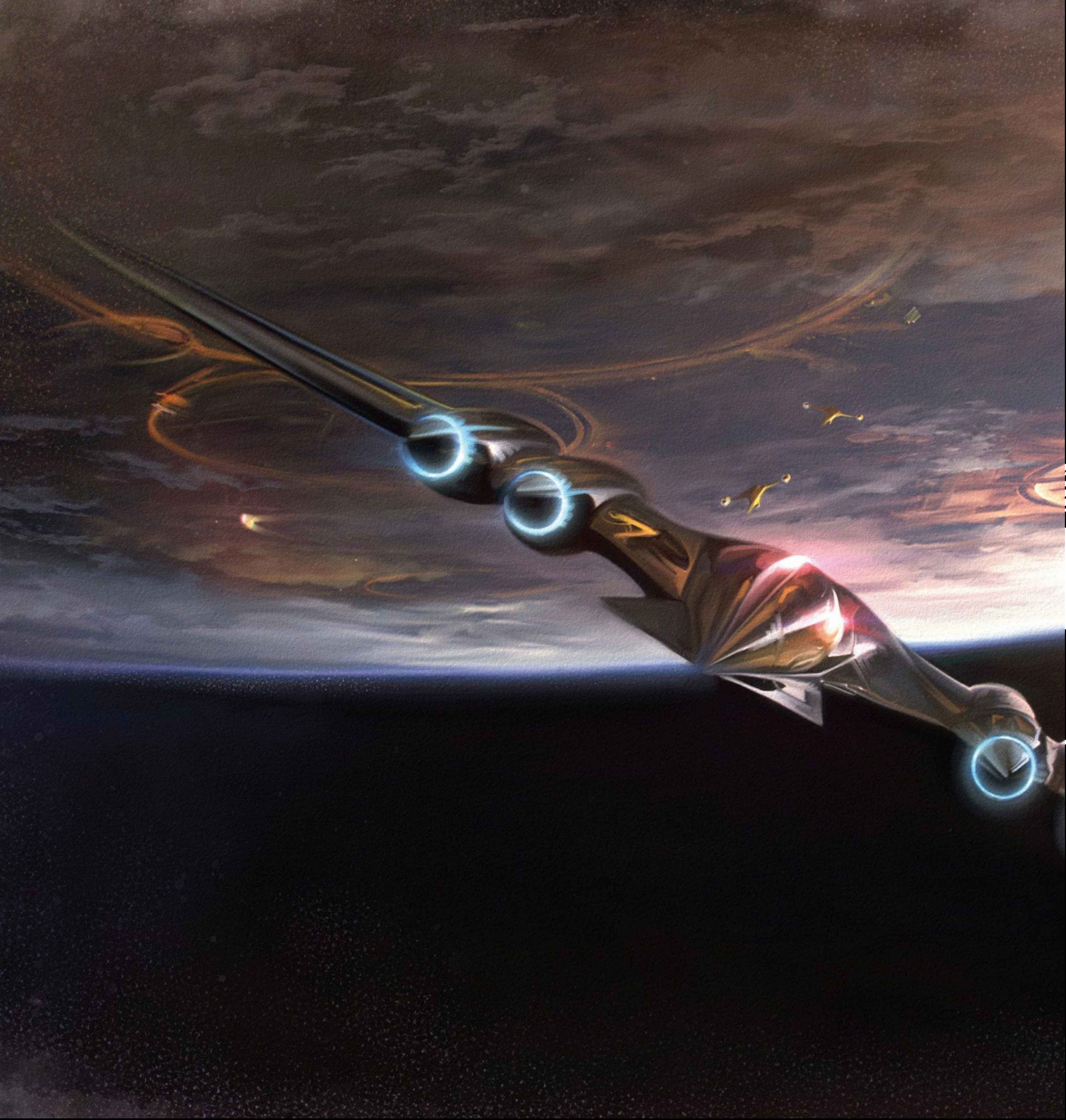




A long time ago in a galaxy far,
far away. . . .



AMBUSHED!



A dramatic space scene featuring a planet's horizon with a bright sun or star low on the horizon, casting a warm glow. In the bottom left corner, a Jedi starship is visible, its blue lightsaber-like ring glowing. The scene is framed by a large, dark, triangular shape on the left and a vertical orange bar on the right.

A M B U S H E D !

Padmé Amidala, the former queen of Naboo, flew toward the bustling planet of Coruscant. She was on her way to the Galactic Senate to represent her people once more as a senator.

Many people in the galaxy were unhappy with the Senate. Some, known as the Separatists, even used violence to show how angry they were.

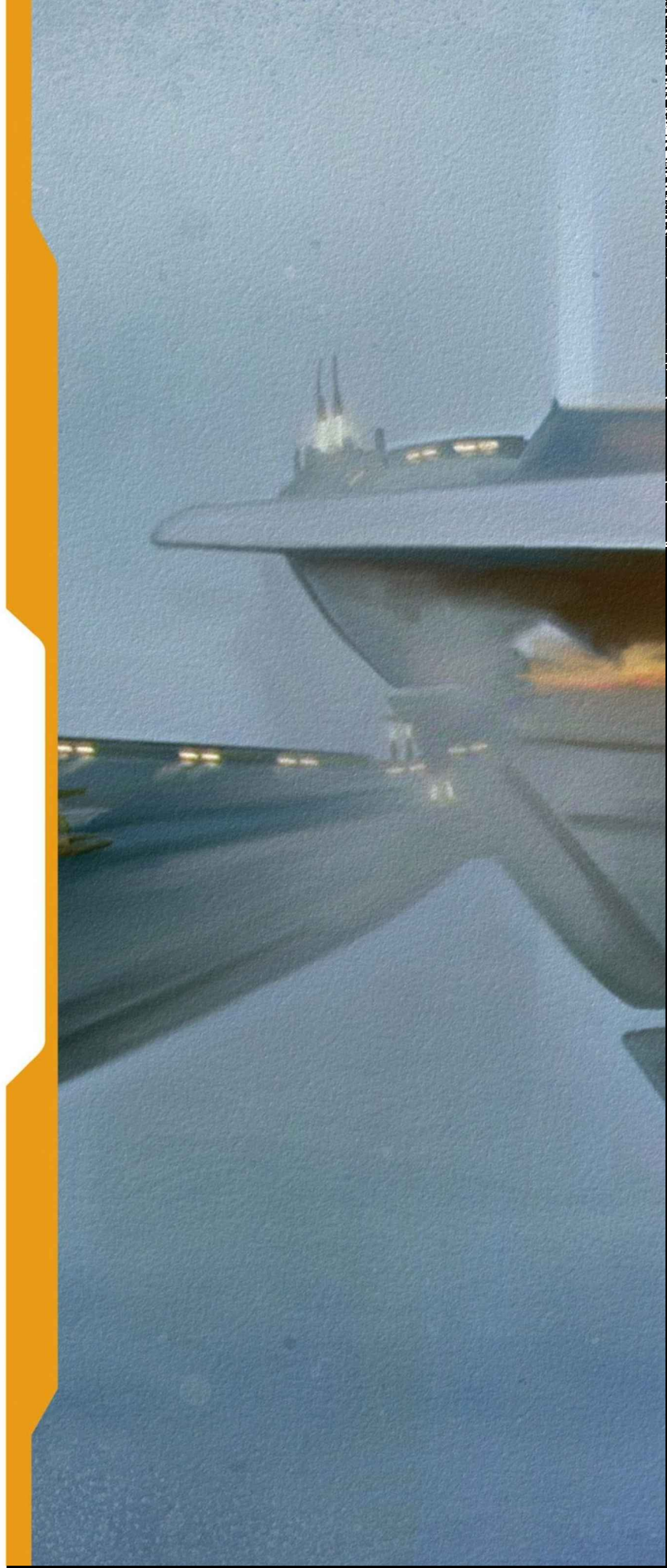
The Jedi Knights were having difficulty maintaining peace throughout the galaxy. Padmé hoped that the Senate could help.

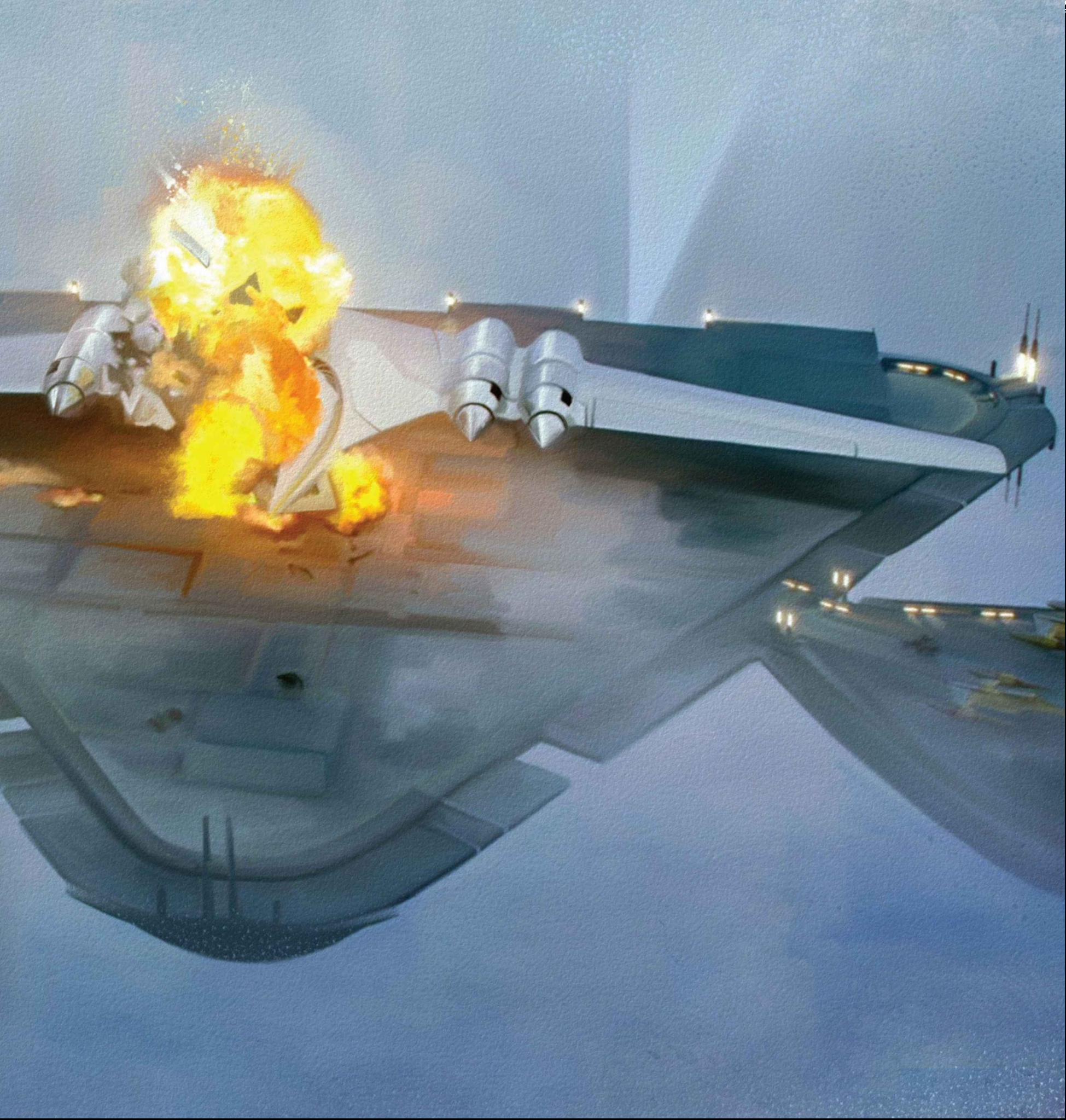
But when the senator's ship landed on the giant platform, there was a sudden explosion! Someone had laid a trap for Padmé!

Only the pilots of the two starfighters that had escorted the senator's ship escaped the fiery blast.

"M'lady, you are still in danger!" one pilot said to the other.

The other pilot removed her helmet, revealing that she was actually the senator in disguise!



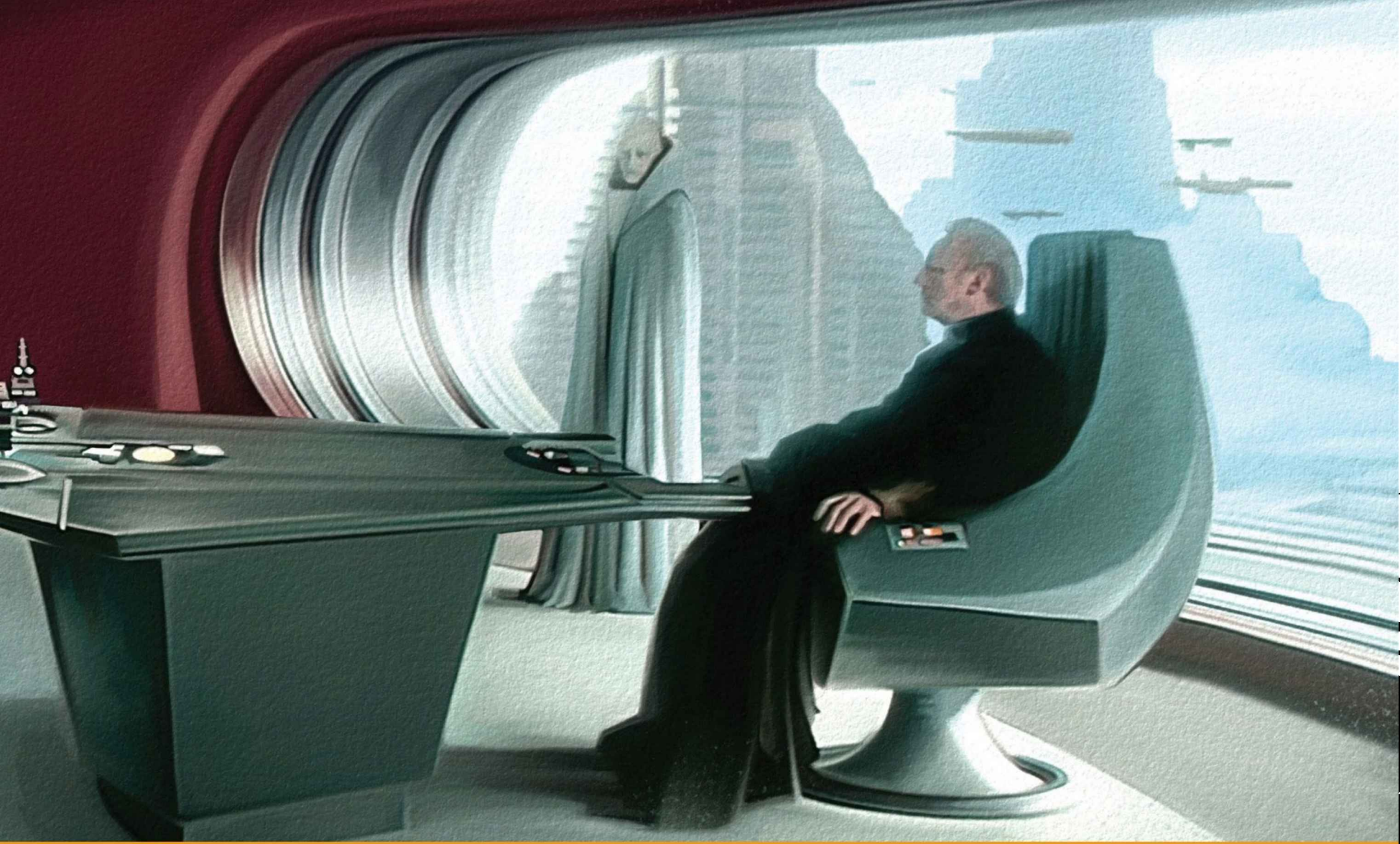




Nearby, in Chancellor Palpatine's chambers, Jedi Council members Mace Windu, Ki-Adi-Mundi, and Yoda met with the Chancellor to discuss an upcoming vote in the Senate that would plunge the Republic into war with the Separatists.

"You must realize there are not enough Jedi to defend the Republic," Mace cautioned Palpatine. "We are keepers of the peace, not soldiers."

Senator Amidala entered the Chancellor's chamber. She suspected



Count Dooku, the mysterious leader of the Separatists, was behind the attack on her life, but the Jedi Council wasn't so sure.

Regardless, Chancellor Palpatine was concerned for Padmé's safety.

"Master Jedi, may I suggest the senator be placed under your protection?"

Padmé protested, but the Jedi agreed with the Chancellor.

Obi-Wan Kenobi and his Padawan, Anakin Skywalker, arrived to help protect the senator. The young Jedi was eager to determine who was threatening Padmé's life.

Obi-Wan reminded Anakin, "We're here to protect her, not start an investigation."

But Anakin was too excited to see Padmé again to listen. It had been ten years since they had last seen each other.

"Ani?" Padmé asked.

She barely recognized the young boy she had met on Tatooine all those years before.





Obi-Wan and Anakin's fears about Padmé's safety were confirmed that very evening. An assassin sent a robotic attack droid, armed with deadly insects, into her room to poison her!

Fortunately, the Jedi sensed the evil mission in time to interfere. Obi-Wan grabbed on to the floating droid as it fled the scene and was soon hanging on for dear life as it flew over the streets of Coruscant.

Anakin jumped into a speeder to rescue Obi-Wan and follow the droid.

They needed to find out who had set up the deadly scheme.

From their speeder, Obi-Wan and Anakin spotted Zam, a bounty hunter assassin. Was she behind the attack?

Anakin navigated the heavy traffic of Coruscant, but Zam managed to slip away.

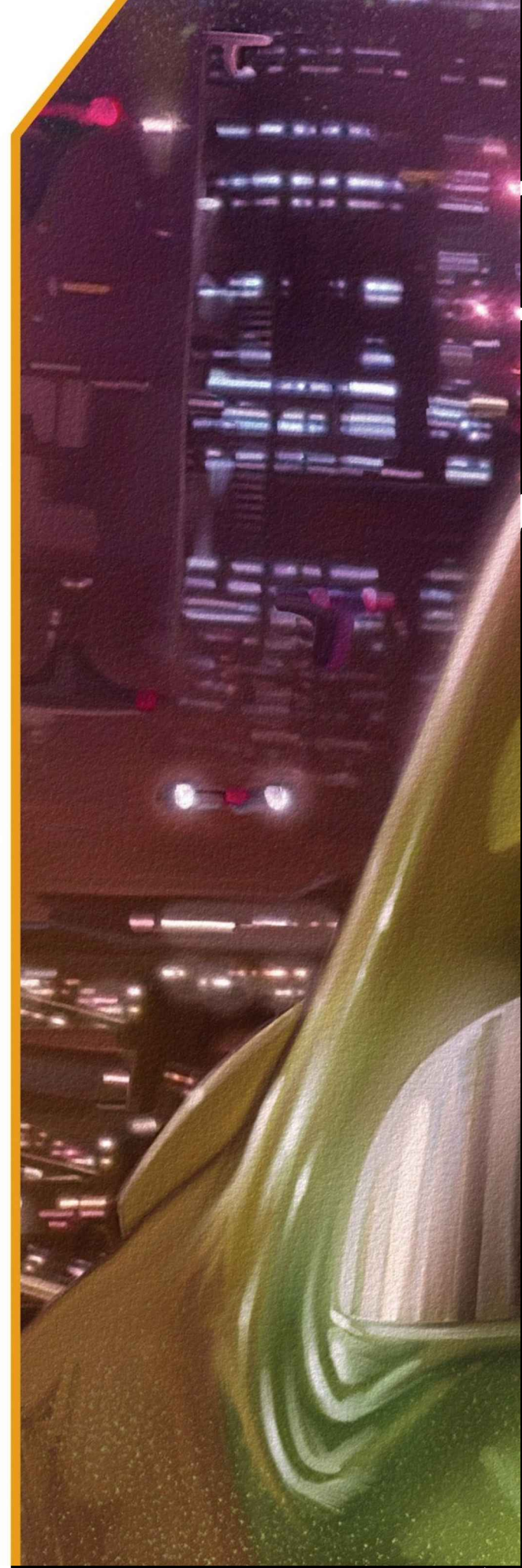
Obi-Wan was frustrated with Anakin as they floated high above the city.

"Well, you've lost her."

Or so he thought! Anakin was waiting for Zam to come out of a tunnel. When she did, Anakin prepared to jump out of the speeder.

"Excuse me for a moment."

Obi-Wan watched in horror as Anakin dropped straight toward the street! Using his Jedi skills, Anakin landed on Zam's speeder, causing the vehicle to wobble and crash.







Obi-Wan met his apprentice on the ground, and the Jedi tried to get answers from the shape-shifting assassin, but she was hit by another bounty hunter's poisonous dart before she could tell them anything.

A M B U S H E D !

Obi-Wan and Anakin told the Jedi Council what had happened.

"Track down this bounty hunter, you must, Obi-Wan," urged Yoda.

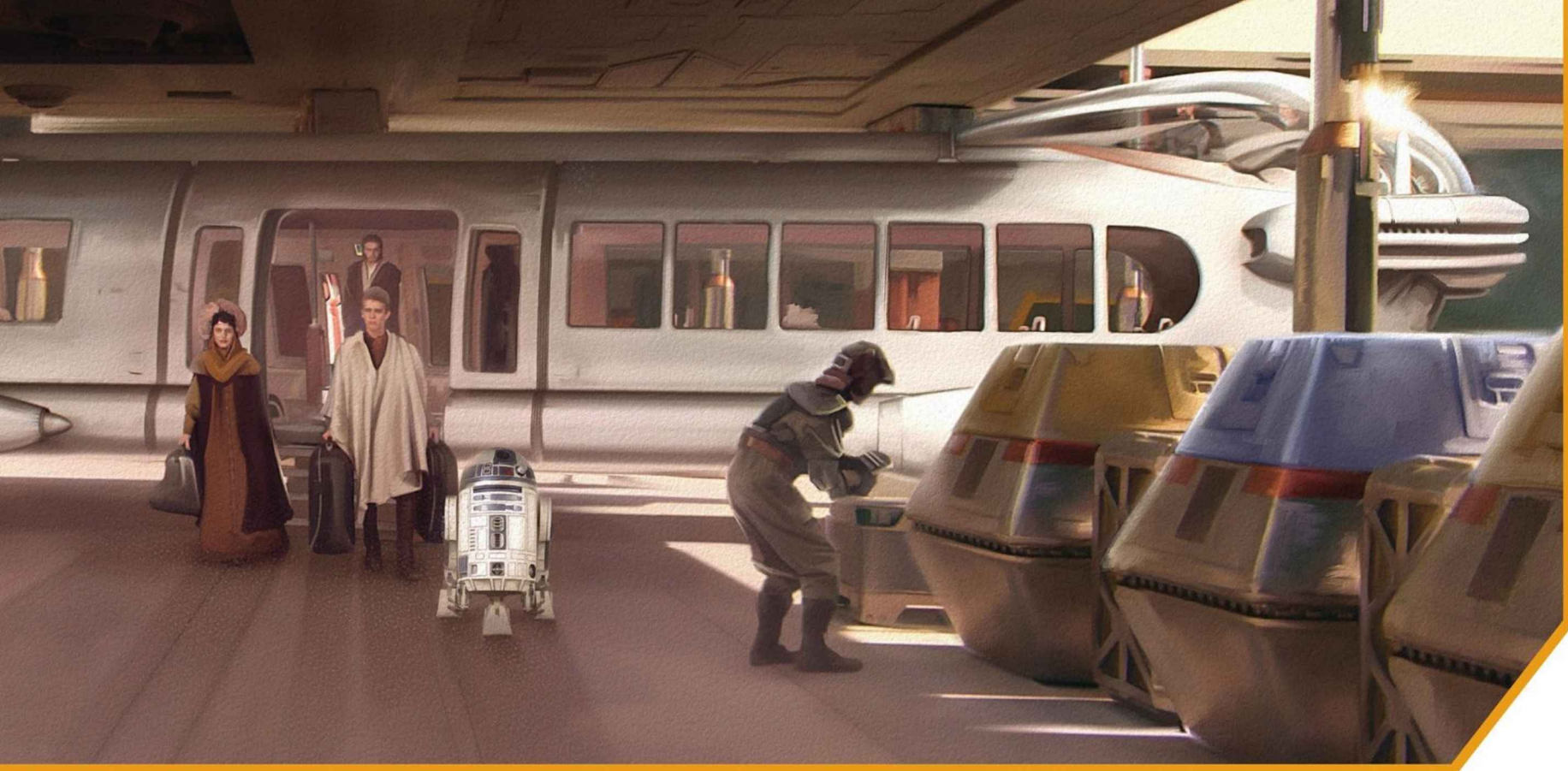
But Obi-Wan was concerned about Padmé's safety; who would protect her if he was looking for the bounty hunter?

"Handle that, your Padawan will," replied Yoda.

"Anakin, escort the senator back to her home planet of Naboo," Mace Windu instructed.

It was clear Padmé was no longer safe on Coruscant.





Anakin was delighted by his new assignment.

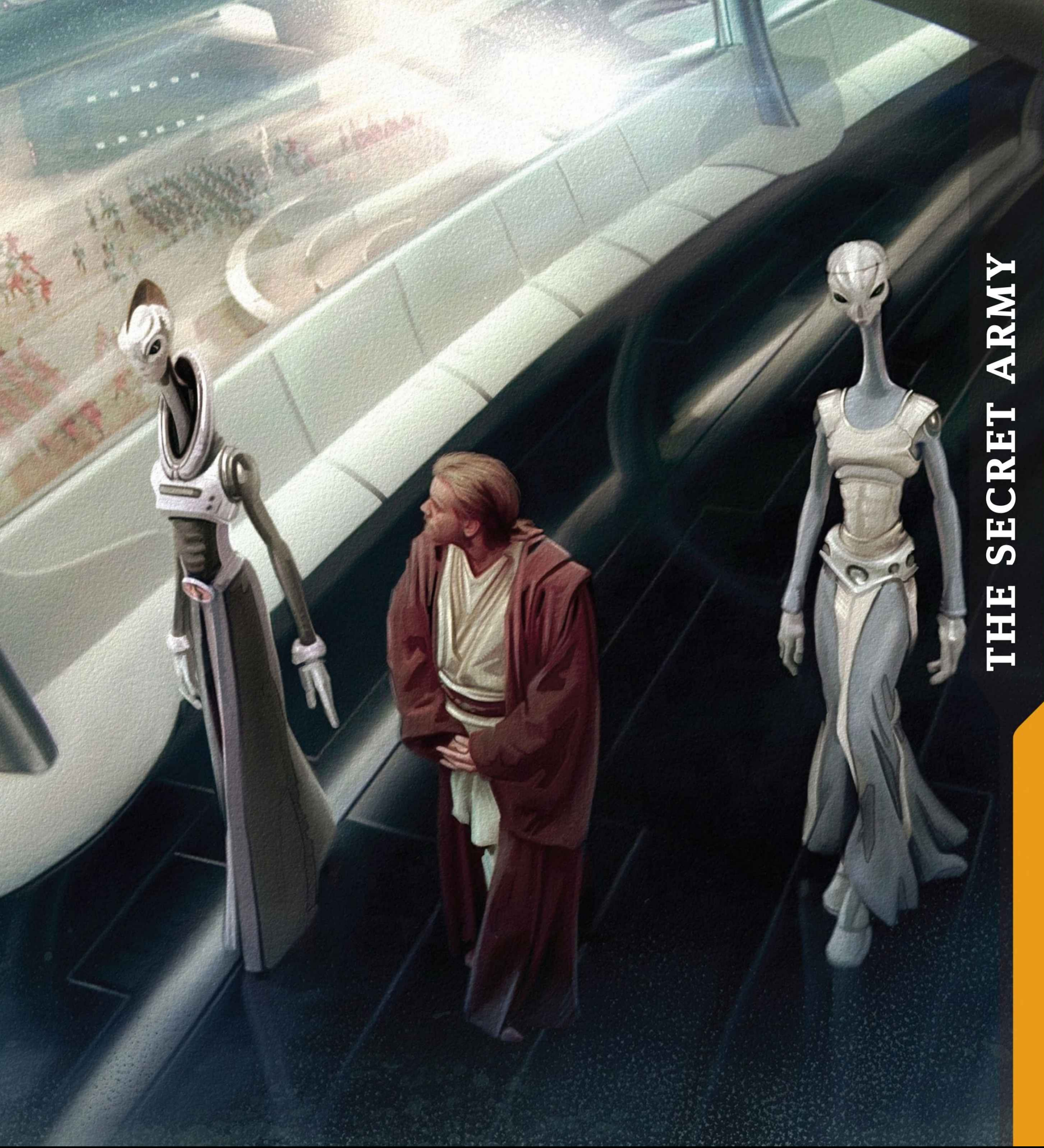
He had missed spending time with his friend Padmé.

As the two departed on their journey with their faithful droid, R2-D2, Padmé turned to Anakin.

"Suddenly, I'm afraid."

"I am, too," Anakin confessed. But he was determined to lift her spirits. "Don't worry, we've got Artoo with us."

Anakin and Padmé were destined to grow closer as their adventure continued.



THE SECRET ARMY



Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi had a problem. Someone was trying to hurt Senator Amidala. But the Jedi Council couldn't figure out who it was. The only clue they had was a poisonous dart the enemy had used—a very strange-looking dart.

Obi-Wan decided to ask his friend Dexter Jettster for help. He might know where the dart had come from. After all, Dex had a way of knowing about things that were . . . out of the ordinary.

"What you got here is a Kamino saberdart," Dex told Obi-Wan.

"Kamino?" asked Obi-Wan.

Dex nodded. "It's a planet beyond the Outer Rim. The folks there keep to themselves. They're cloners."

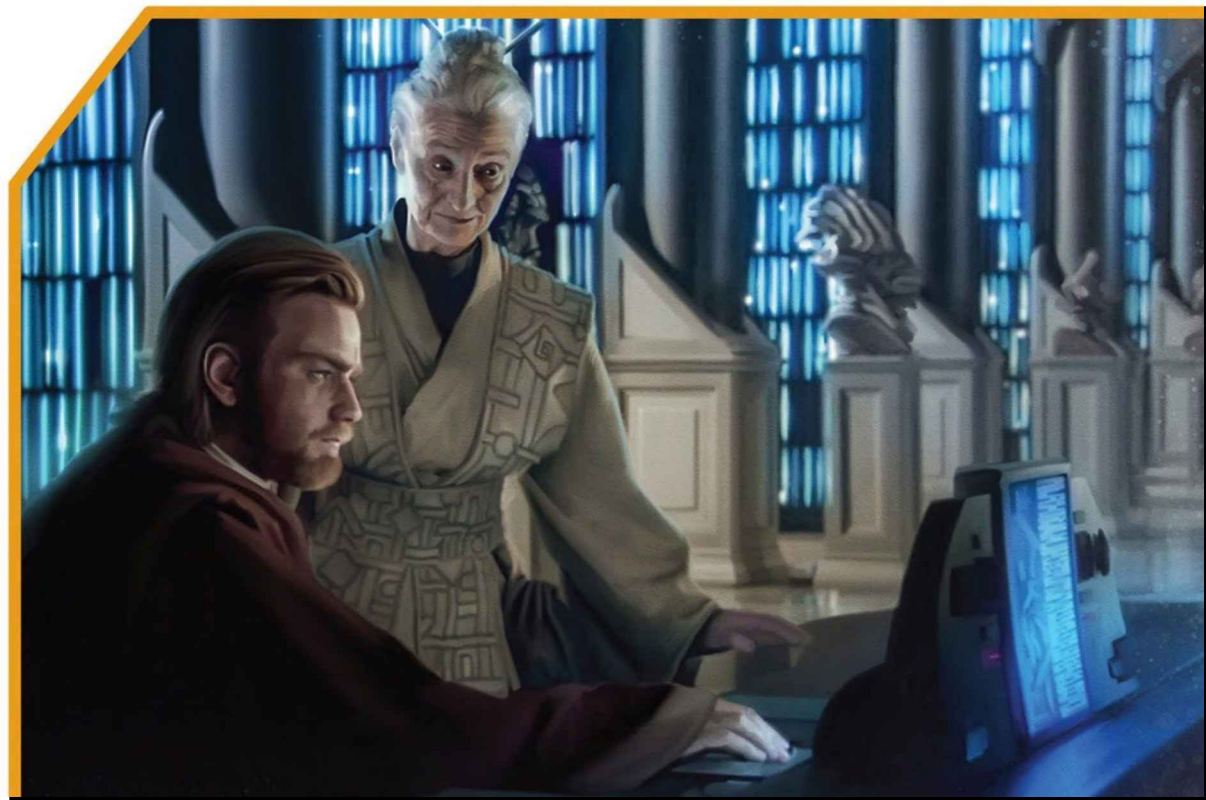
Obi-Wan had never heard of Kamino. So he went to research it in the Jedi Archives.

But to his surprise, the planet didn't show up in the map charts.

"Are you sure you have the right coordinates?" the archive keeper asked him.

"Yes," said Obi-Wan. "It should appear right here, just south of the Rishi Maze."

The keeper shook her head. "I hate to say it, but if an item does not appear in our records, it does not exist."



The mystery was becoming stranger and stranger. Obi-Wan had to get to the bottom of it.

And that meant asking the wisest Jedi he knew for help: Master Yoda.

Obi-Wan found the old master training a class of young Padawans.

"Hmmm. Lost a planet, Master Obi-Wan has," Yoda said to his students. "How embarrassing."

The children giggled.

Yoda pulled up a 3D map of the galaxy. Obi-Wan pointed to where the planet should have been. "Gravity is pulling all the stars in the area to this spot," he said. "But the planet isn't there."

"Master?" A very small boy raised his hand. "Perhaps someone erased it from the archive memory?"

Yoda nodded proudly. "Truly wonderful the mind of a child is. The Padawan is right. Go to the center of gravity's pull, and find your planet, you will."







Obi-Wan was growing worried. Only a Jedi could have erased those files from the archives. But who? And why?

Quickly, he flew to the coordinates Dex had given him. Sure enough, there was the planet Kamino!

Obi-Wan landed his starship on the platform of a large spaceport. To his surprise, a tall alien named Taun We came out to greet him.



"Master Jedi," she said, "the prime minister is expecting you."

"I'm expected?" Obi-Wan raised his eyebrows.

"Of course," Taun We said. "He is anxious to meet you. After all these years, we were beginning to think you weren't coming."

Taun We took Obi-Wan to meet the Kamino prime minister, Lama Su.

"You will be delighted to hear we are on schedule," Lama Su told Obi-Wan. "Two hundred thousand units are ready, with a million more on the way. Please tell your master, Sifo-Dyas, that his order will be met on time."

Obi-Wan was extremely confused. "Master Sifo-Dyas was killed almost ten years ago."

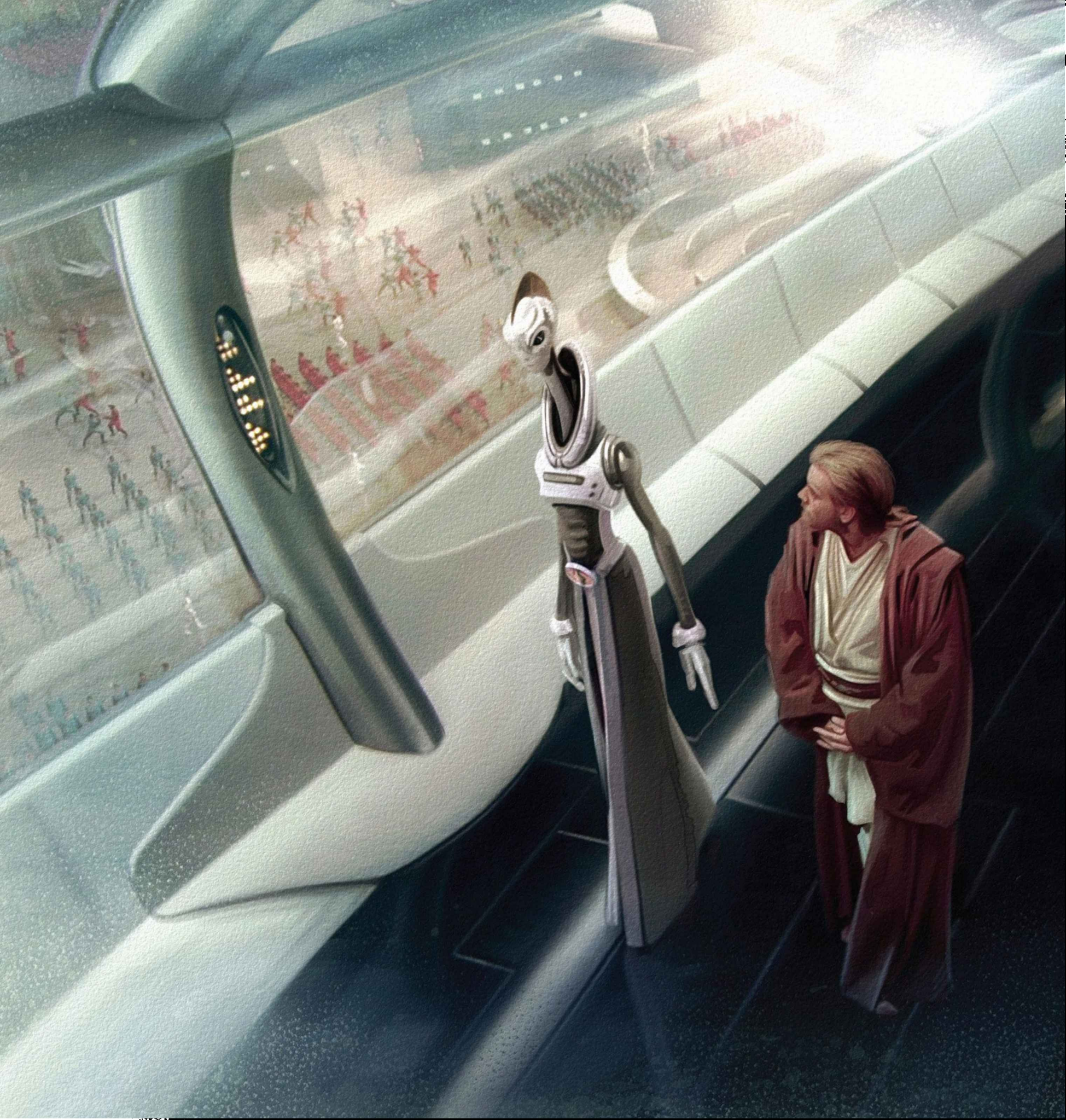
Lama Su was surprised. "I'm so sorry to hear that. But I'm sure he would have been proud of the clone army we've built for him."

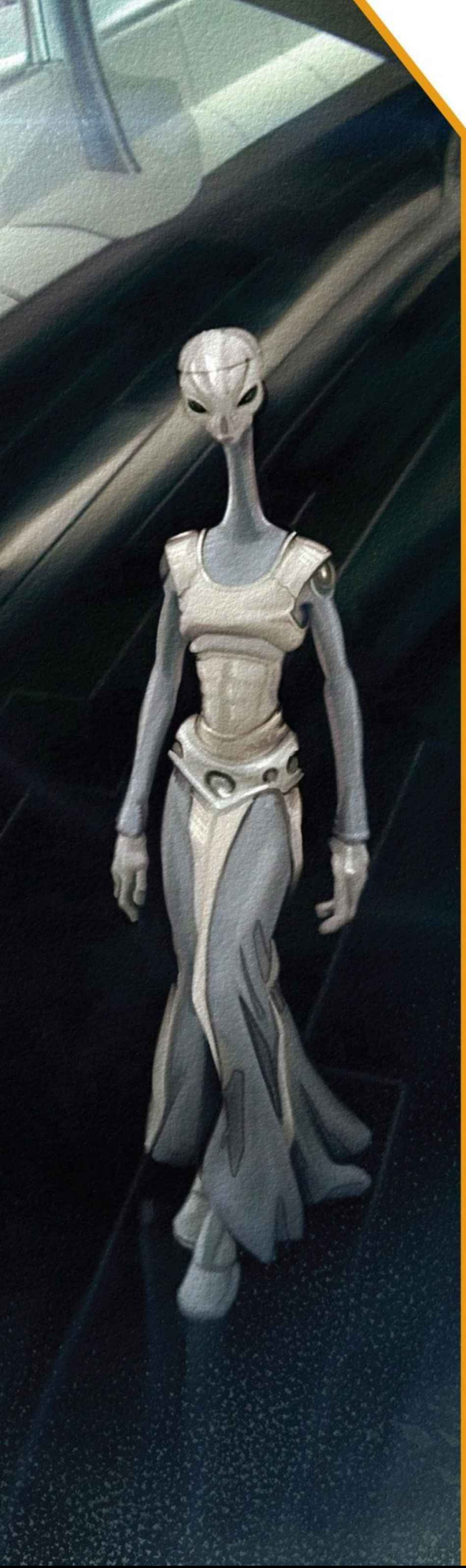
Obi-Wan had no idea what Lama Su was talking about. But he decided to play along. "Tell me, when my Master first contacted you, did he say who the army was for?"

"The Jedi Council requested this army for the Republic," Lama Su replied.









Taun We and Lama Su took Obi-Wan to see the clone army. Obi-Wan couldn't believe his eyes. There were thousands and thousands of clone soldiers in the spaceport—eating, exercising, training. And they all looked exactly the same.

"They are totally obedient," Lama Su explained proudly, "taking any order without question. We modified their genetic structure to make them less independent than the original host."

"And who is the original host?" Obi-Wan asked.

"A bounty hunter called Jango Fett," said Lama Su.

A bounty hunter! thought Obi-Wan. *That could be the culprit behind the attacks on Senator Amidala.* He asked to meet Jango Fett.

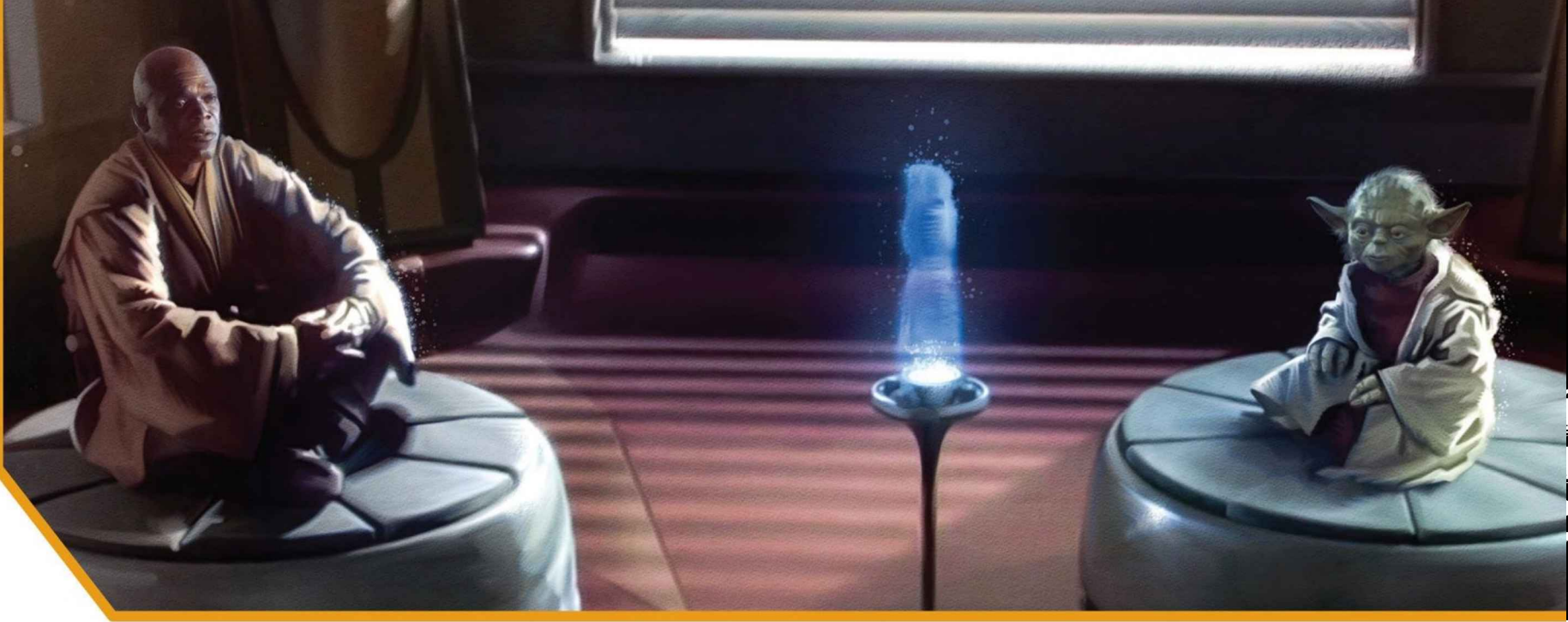
"This is Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi," Taun We said, introducing Obi-Wan to Jango Fett and his clone son, Boba.

"Tell me, have you ever been to Coruscant?" Obi-Wan asked Jango.

"Once or twice," Jango replied warily.

Obi-Wan got a very bad feeling about Jango. He was certain he'd found the mysterious attacker they were looking for.





Obi-Wan needed to tell Yoda and Mace Windu what he had discovered. He hurried back to his ship and sent them a message.

"The Kaminoans are using a bounty hunter named Jango Fett to create a clone army," Obi-Wan said. "I have a strong feeling that this bounty hunter is the assassin we're looking for."

"An army?" Master Yoda asked.

"Yes," said Obi-Wan. "The Kamino prime minister said that the Jedi Council placed an order for a clone army almost ten years ago. Is that true?"

"No," said Mace Windu.

"Bring the bounty hunter here," said Yoda. "Question him, we will."

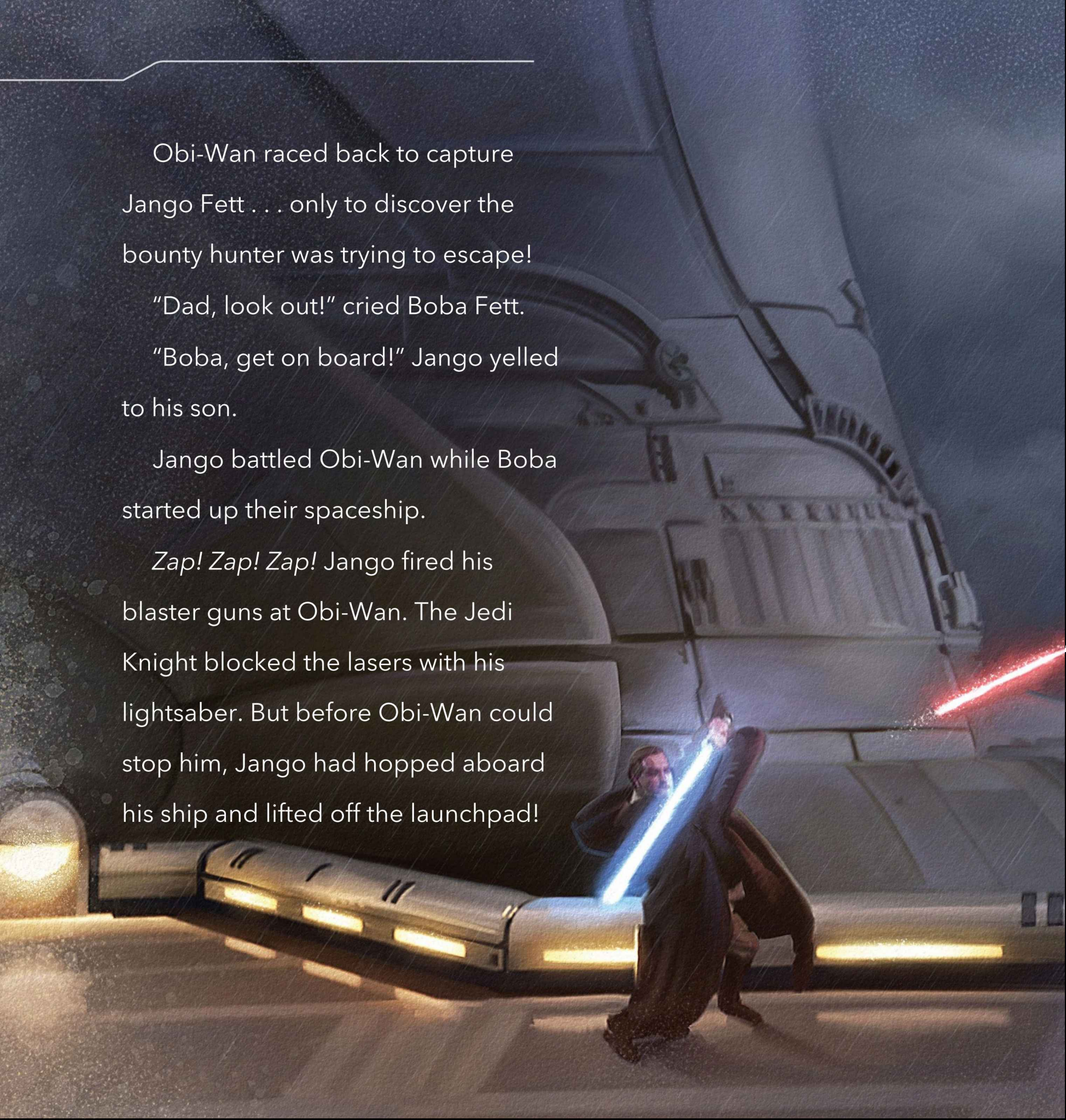
Obi-Wan raced back to capture Jango Fett . . . only to discover the bounty hunter was trying to escape!

"Dad, look out!" cried Boba Fett.

"Boba, get on board!" Jango yelled to his son.

Jango battled Obi-Wan while Boba started up their spaceship.

Zap! Zap! Zap! Jango fired his blaster guns at Obi-Wan. The Jedi Knight blocked the lasers with his lightsaber. But before Obi-Wan could stop him, Jango had hopped aboard his ship and lifted off the launchpad!





Thinking fast, Obi-Wan threw a tracking device at Jango's ship.
SNAP! It attached to the hull just in time. The ship took off and
blasted into space!

Phew, Obi-Wan thought. At least now I can track him.

No matter where the bounty hunter went, Obi-Wan would follow him
and get to the bottom of the mystery once and for all!





ANAKIN'S VOW





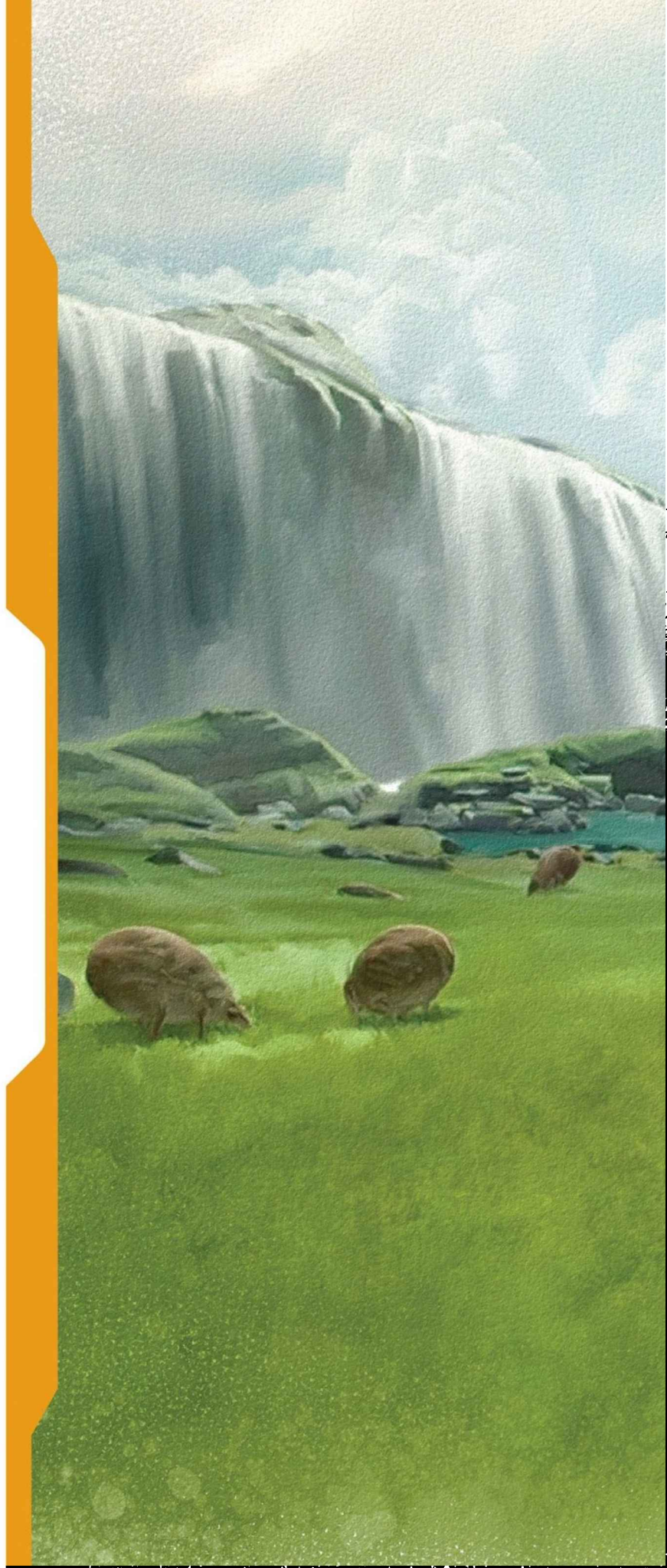
ANAKIN'S VOW

As the bright light of Naboo's sun shone on Anakin and Padmé, it was easy for them to pretend that the galaxy was at peace. Although a terrifying attack on Padmé had sent her and her Jedi protector into hiding, those troubles seemed far, far away. The feeling of friendship Anakin had for Padmé was growing into something more—something like love.

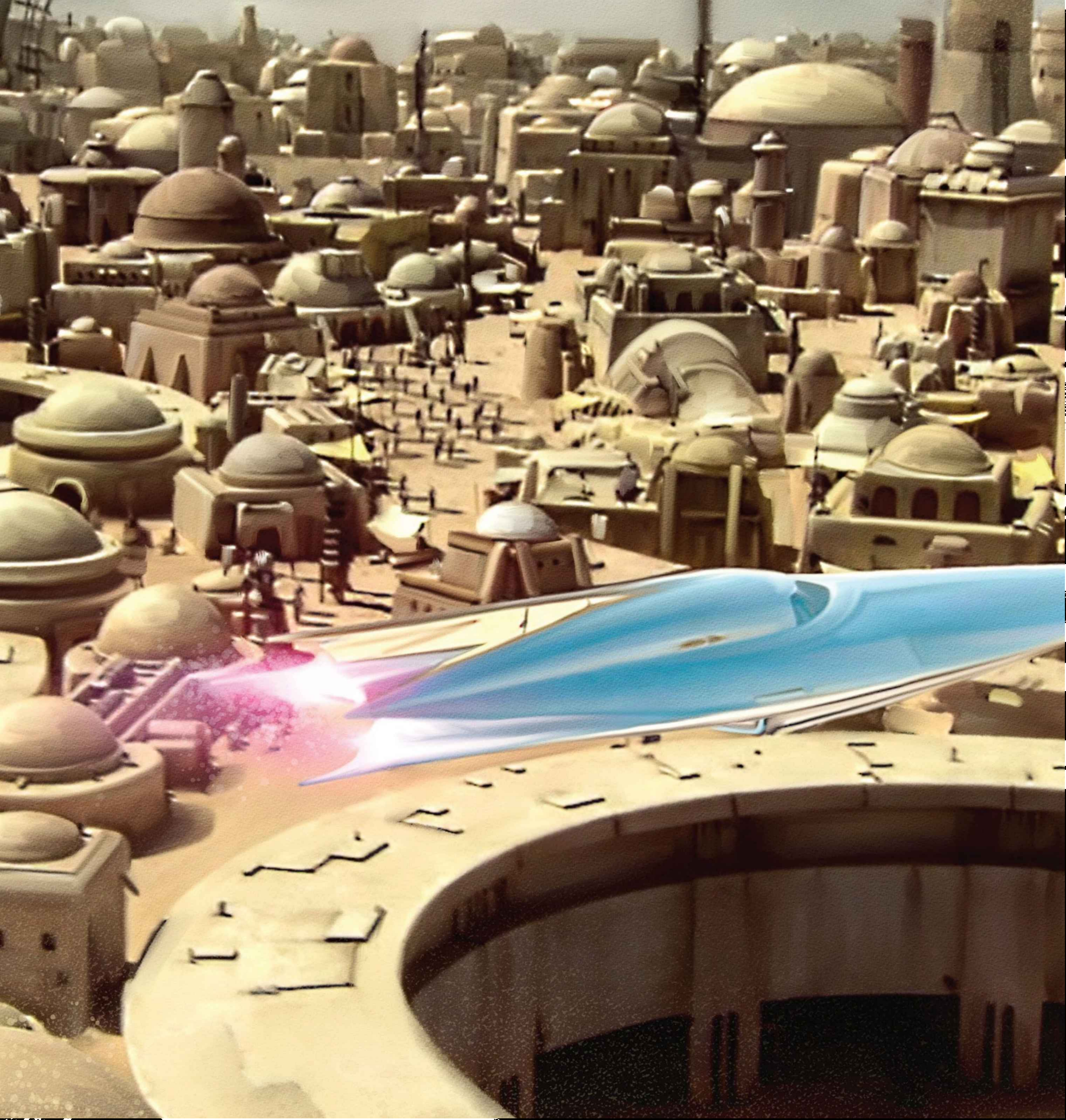
Anakin and Padmé spent their days exploring the beautiful waterfalls and valleys of the countryside. But even though everything around Anakin was peaceful, something felt wrong. Every night he had the same nightmare. He tossed and turned as visions of his mother, Shmi, haunted his dreams. Somehow he knew she was in trouble.

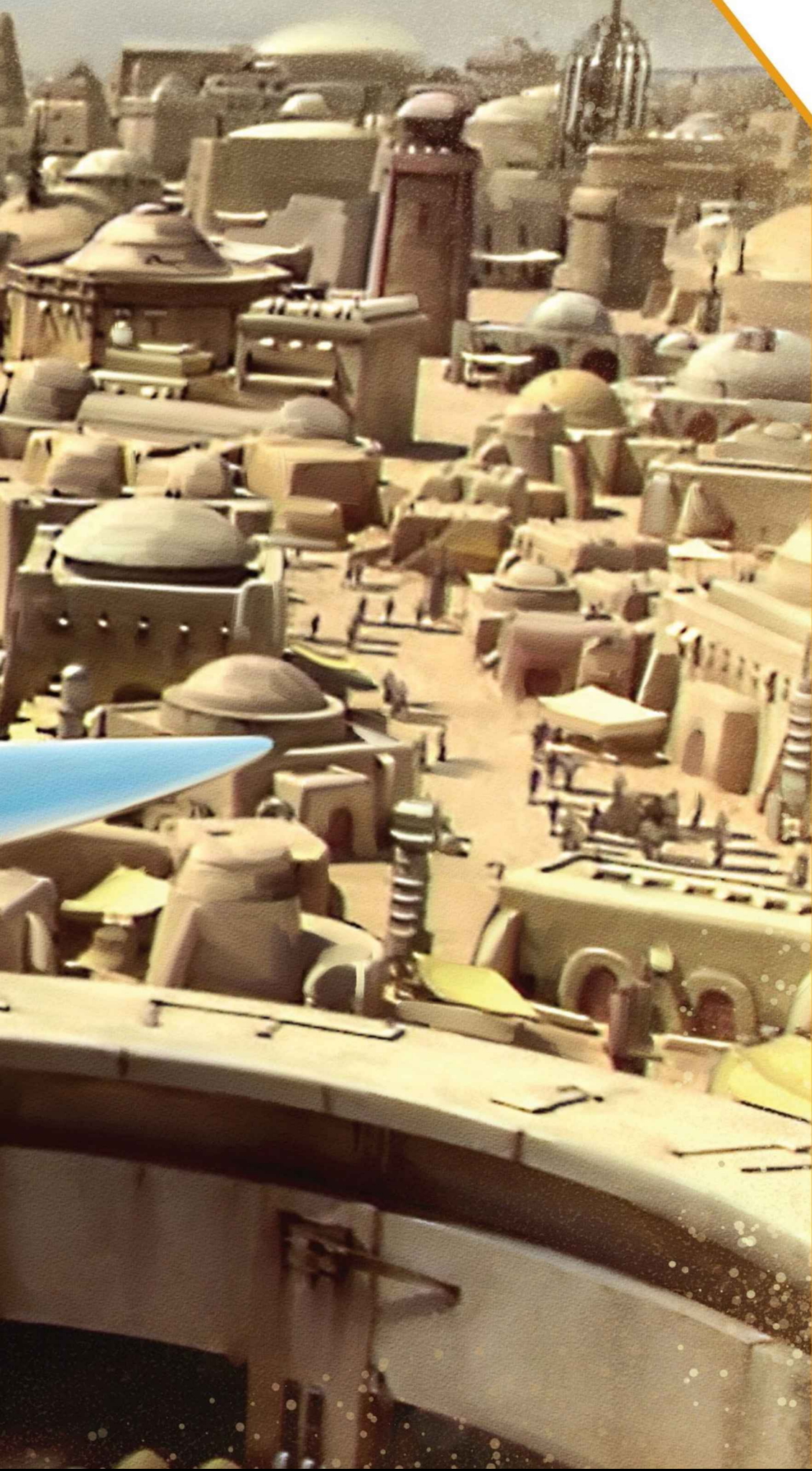
Finally, Anakin couldn't ignore the dreams any longer. "I have to go. I have to help her," Anakin told Padmé.

"I'll go with you," she promised.









So together, the senator and the Jedi traveled to Tatooine in search of Anakin's mother. Anakin had not been back to his home planet since he was a little boy. He was so different. He wondered if his planet had changed, too.



The two began their quest by finding someone Anakin knew well . . . unfortunately. Watto, the junk dealer, had never been kind to Anakin as a child, but he was their best chance of finding Anakin's mother.

Watto greeted Anakin with disbelief. "Little Ani? You sure sprouted, huh. A Jedi! Whaddya know?"

Watto explained that Shmi had moved away and married a farmer named Cliegg Lars.



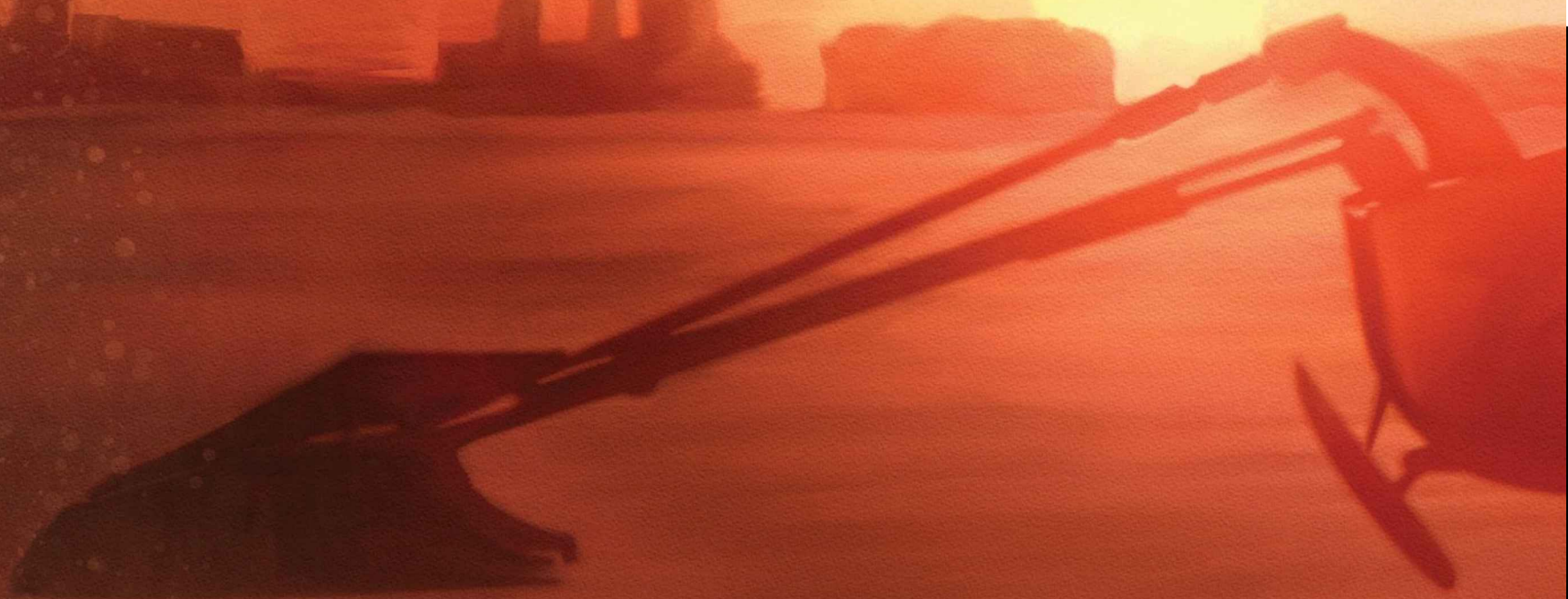


It didn't take long for Anakin and Padmé to track down Cliegg on his moisture farm in the desert. They even found the droid Anakin had built as a child—C-3PO!

"I knew you would return. I knew it!" the droid gushed.

But Cliegg had terrible news for Anakin. Shmi had been captured by Tusken Raiders over a month before. There was little hope that she was still alive.

Anakin refused to give up on his mother. He grabbed a speeder and raced through the desert, far into the Tusken Raiders' territory. Even though he knew a Jedi should be calm and patient, fear had pushed every other thought out of Anakin's mind. He had to find his mother before it was too late.



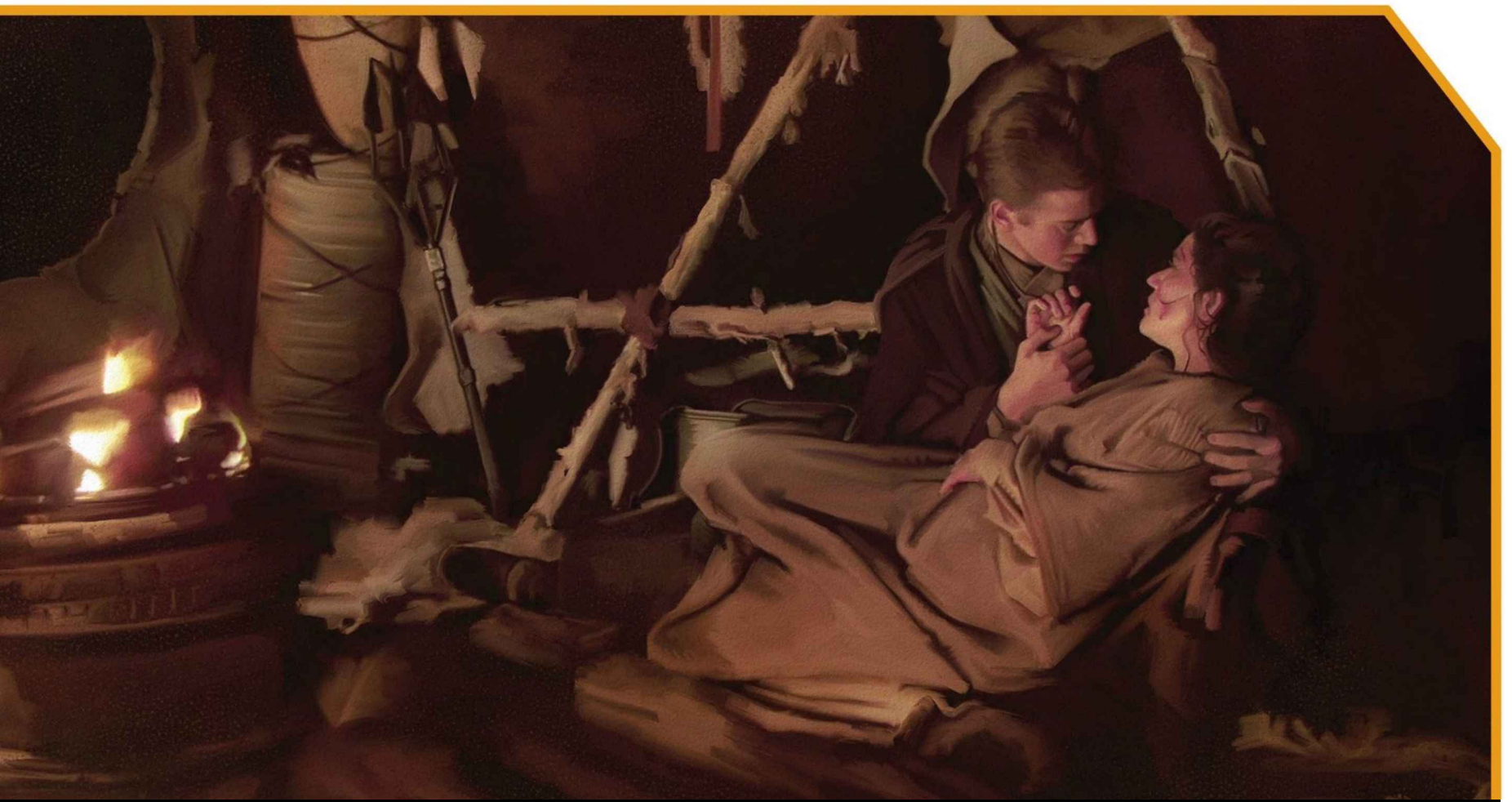


Soon Anakin discovered the Tusken Raiders' camp. He snuck silently from tent to tent until he found the one that held his mother. She had been tied up and left alone with no one to help her. Shmi was badly hurt. Anakin knew she would never make it back home with him.

Anakin held his mother in his arms one last time.

"I'm so proud of you, Ani," Shmi said.

Her message delivered, Anakin's mother let go of her pain and became one with the Force.

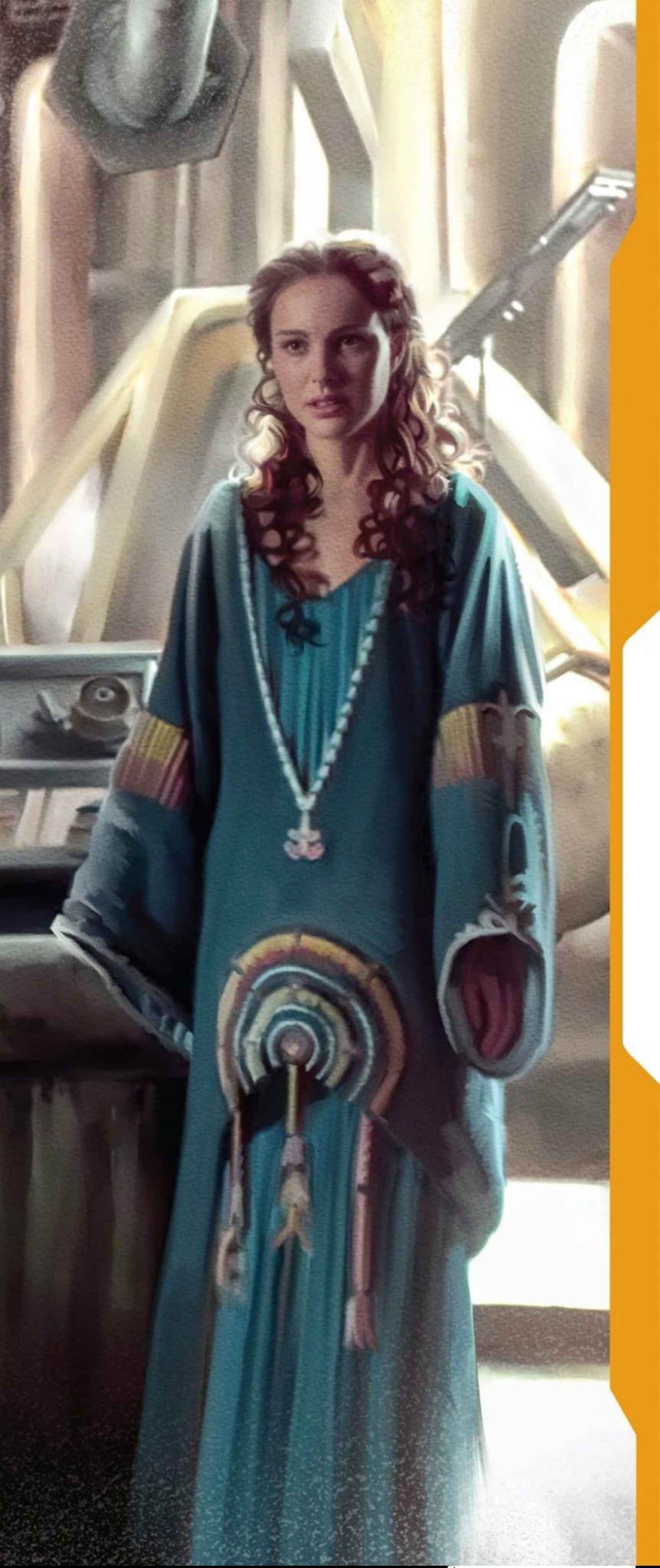




But even though Shmi was at peace, Anakin was not. A burning rage filled him as he thought of the Tusken Raiders who had hurt his mother.

Anakin drew his lightsaber and gave in to his anger. He stormed through the camp, destroying everything in his way.





Later, back at Cliegg's home, Anakin told Padmé about what had happened. Hurting the Tusken Raiders hadn't made Anakin feel any better. Anakin never wanted to feel so sad and angry again. He made a promise to himself and to Padmé.

"Someday I will be the most powerful Jedi ever," he said. "I will even learn to stop people from dying."



Anakin, Padmé, Cliegg, and his family gathered outside to pay their last respects to Shmi. Anakin felt the rage returning again, but this time he channeled the anger toward his new goal. He would never again let anything bad happen to someone he loved.

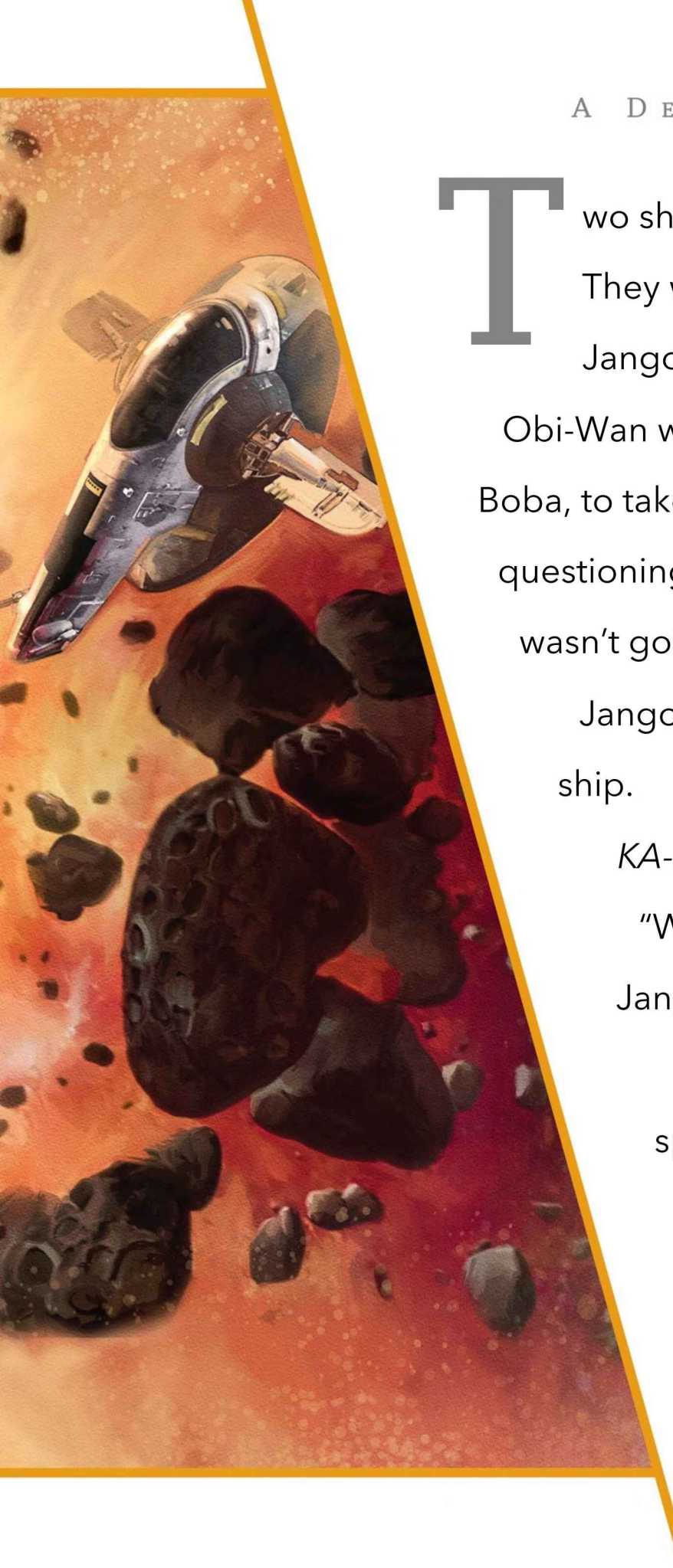
Anakin's fear and anger were leading him down a dark path, but the young Jedi had vowed to follow that path—no matter where it led.





A DEADLY PLOT



An illustration of a spaceship, likely a Jedi starfighter, flying through a dense field of dark, jagged asteroids. The background is a fiery orange and red, suggesting a planet's atmosphere or a star. The spaceship is white with blue and yellow accents. It is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page, angled towards the right.

Two ships whizzed through an asteroid field. They were piloted by Obi-Wan Kenobi and Jango Fett!

Obi-Wan was chasing Jango and his clone son, Boba, to take them back to the Jedi Council for questioning. But the dangerous bounty hunter wasn't going down without a fight.

Jango Fett launched a torpedo at Obi-Wan's ship.

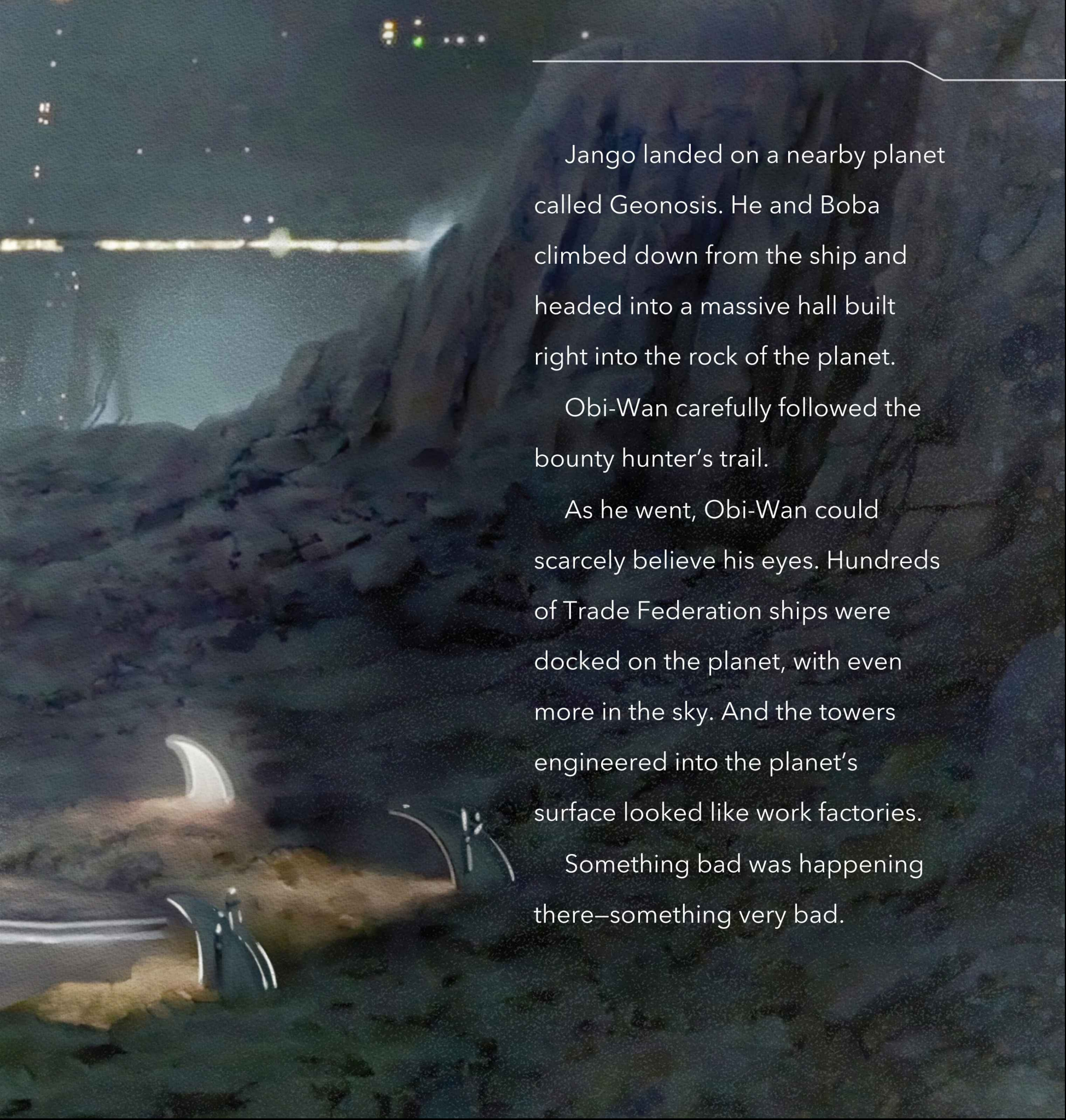
KA-BOOM! There was a giant explosion.

"Well, we won't be seeing him again."

Jango laughed.

But Obi-Wan had released a canister of spare parts for the torpedo to hit. Obi-Wan piloted his ship behind an asteroid and hid there while Jango's ship passed. Then he stealthily flew after him.





Jango landed on a nearby planet called Geonosis. He and Boba climbed down from the ship and headed into a massive hall built right into the rock of the planet.

Obi-Wan carefully followed the bounty hunter's trail.

As he went, Obi-Wan could scarcely believe his eyes. Hundreds of Trade Federation ships were docked on the planet, with even more in the sky. And the towers engineered into the planet's surface looked like work factories.

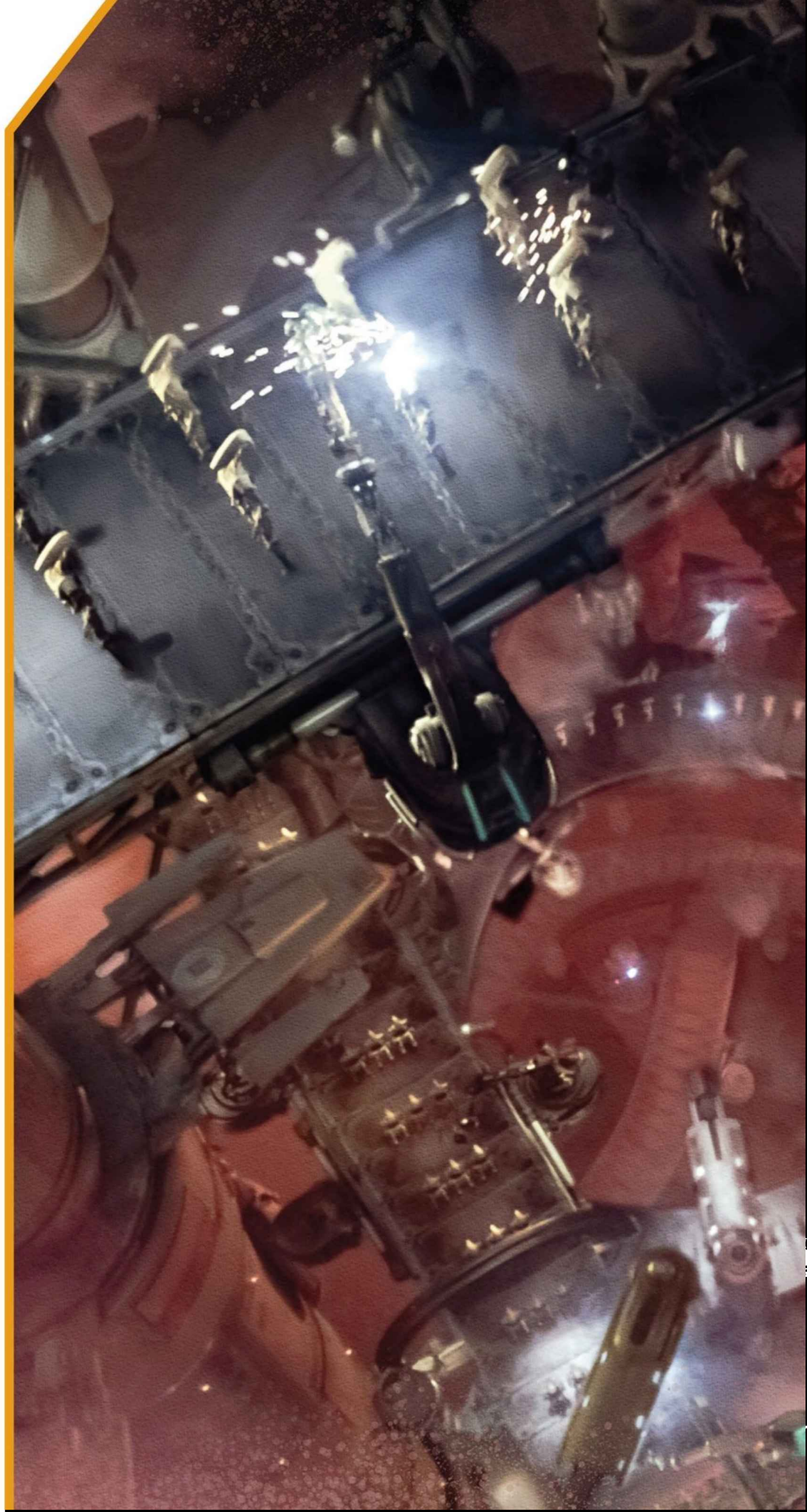
Something bad was happening there—something very bad.

Inside the factory,
Obi-Wan's worst fears
were confirmed.

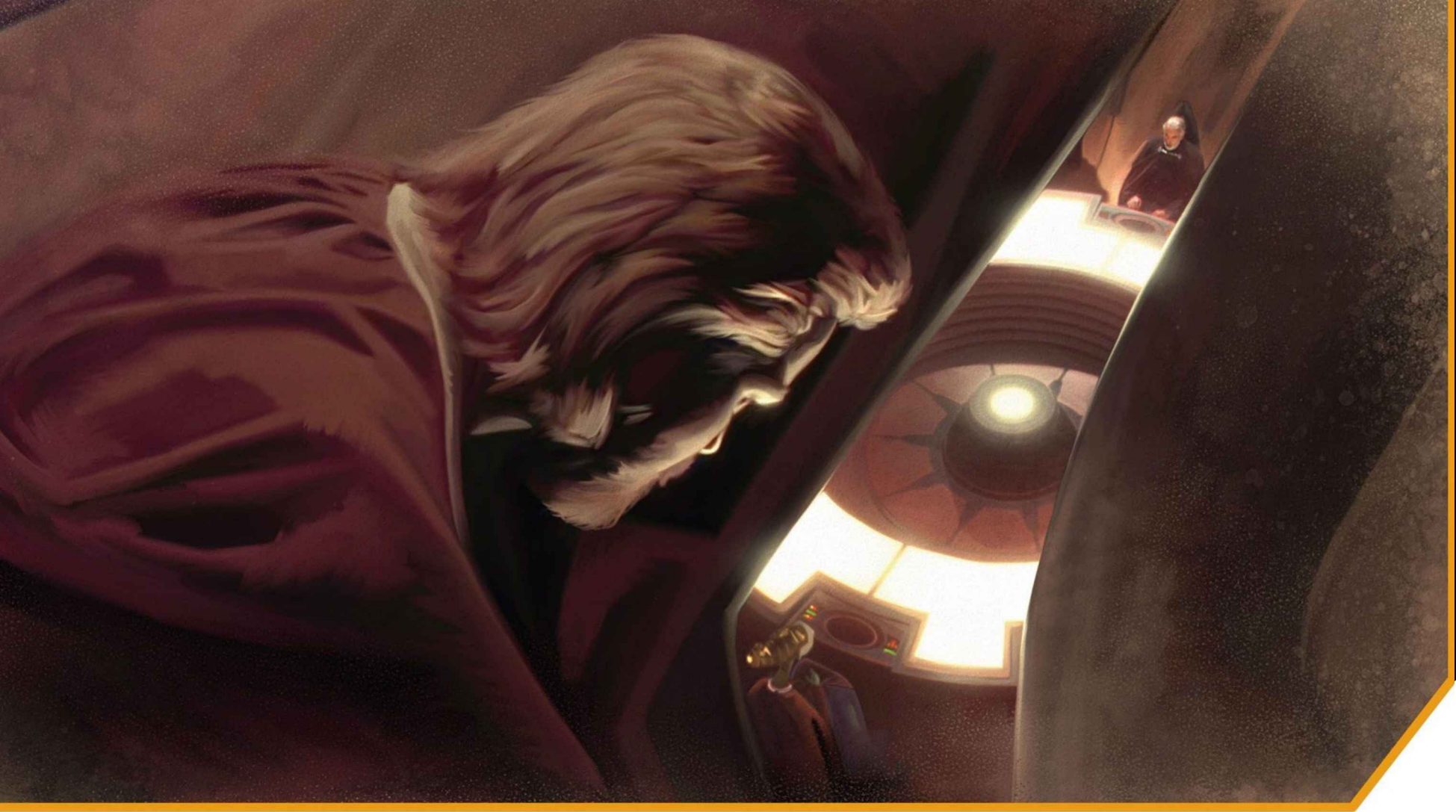
Geonosian workers
were building thousands
and thousands of battle
droids.

The Trade Federation
was creating an army to
destroy the Jedi . . . and
the entire Republic!

Suddenly, Obi-Wan
heard voices.







From his hiding spot, Obi-Wan watched as a group of Separatist leaders gathered. An older man with a crooked nose addressed them all.

Obi-Wan knew the man. He was a powerful former Jedi.
Count Dooku.

“With the battle droids we have built, we shall have an army greater than anything in the galaxy,” Count Dooku said.

A D E A D L Y P L O T

Obi-Wan needed to warn the Jedi Council!

"I have tracked Jango Fett to Geonosis," Obi-Wan recorded. "Viceroy Gunray is behind the assassination attempts on Senator Amidala. The Separatists have pledged their droid armies to Count Dooku and are forming a—"

Suddenly, a battle droid attacked the Jedi and knocked him unconscious! Obi-Wan's droid, R4, sent the partial message to the Council just in time.







When Obi-Wan awoke, he was trapped in a stasis field. Count Dooku was circling him.

"Traitor," Obi-Wan said.

"Oh, no, my friend," insisted Count Dooku. "I am not the enemy. What if I told you that the Republic is under the influence of a Sith Lord called Darth Sidious? That is the villain we Separatists are trying to stop! You must join me, Obi-Wan, and together we will destroy the Sith."

But Obi-Wan didn't believe Dooku. "I will never join you."

Back on Coruscant, the Jedi Council reviewed Obi-Wan's partial message.

"More happening on Geonosis, I feel, than has been revealed," said Yoda.

They needed to rescue Obi-Wan.

"Now we need that clone army, to defend the Republic against the



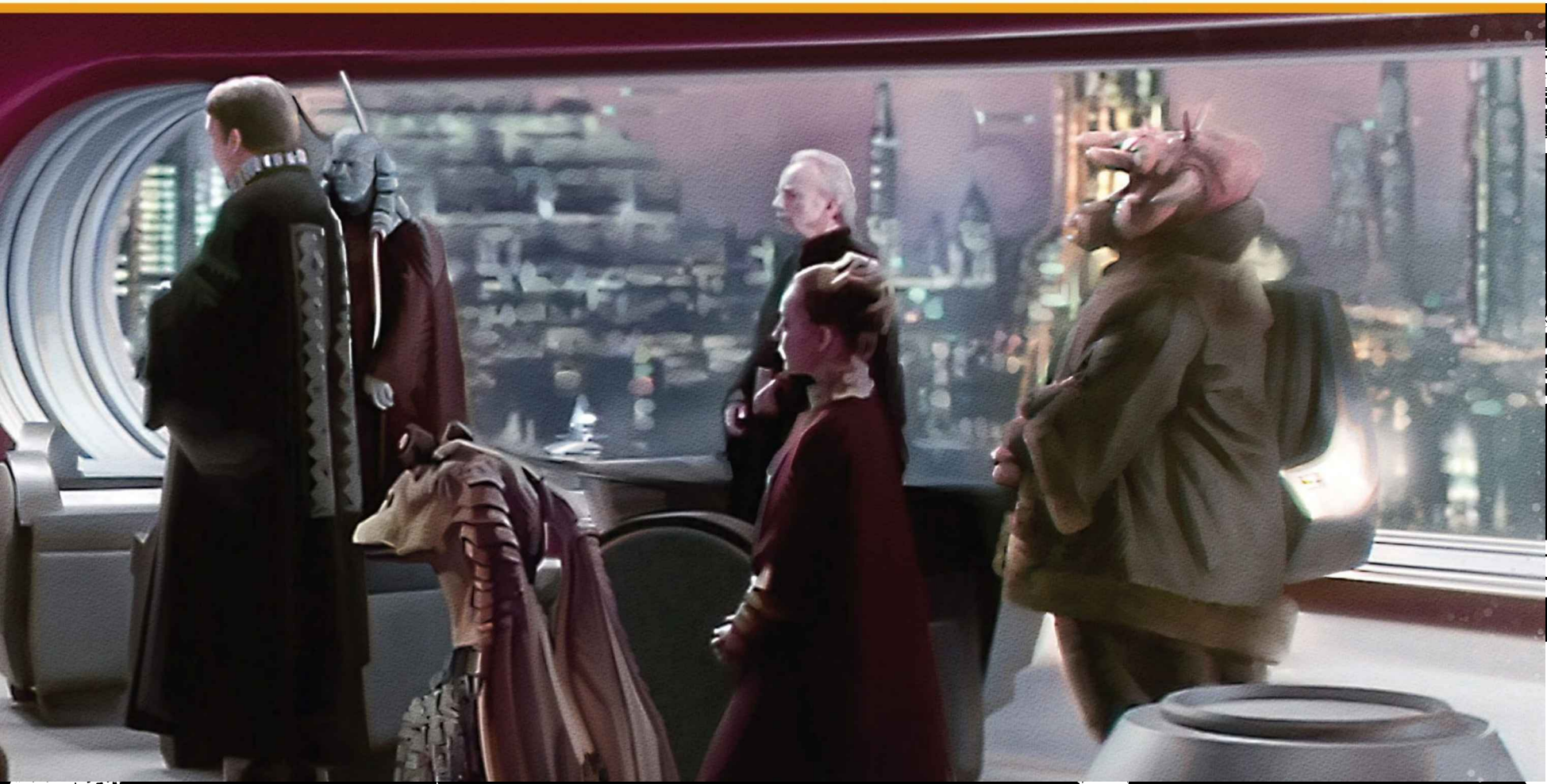
A D E A D L Y P L O T

droids," another Jedi said. "But the Senate will never approve it."

"The Senate must vote to give Chancellor Palpatine emergency powers!" exclaimed another. "He could approve the use of the clones."

"But what senator would have the courage to propose such a radical amendment?" asked Chancellor Palpatine.

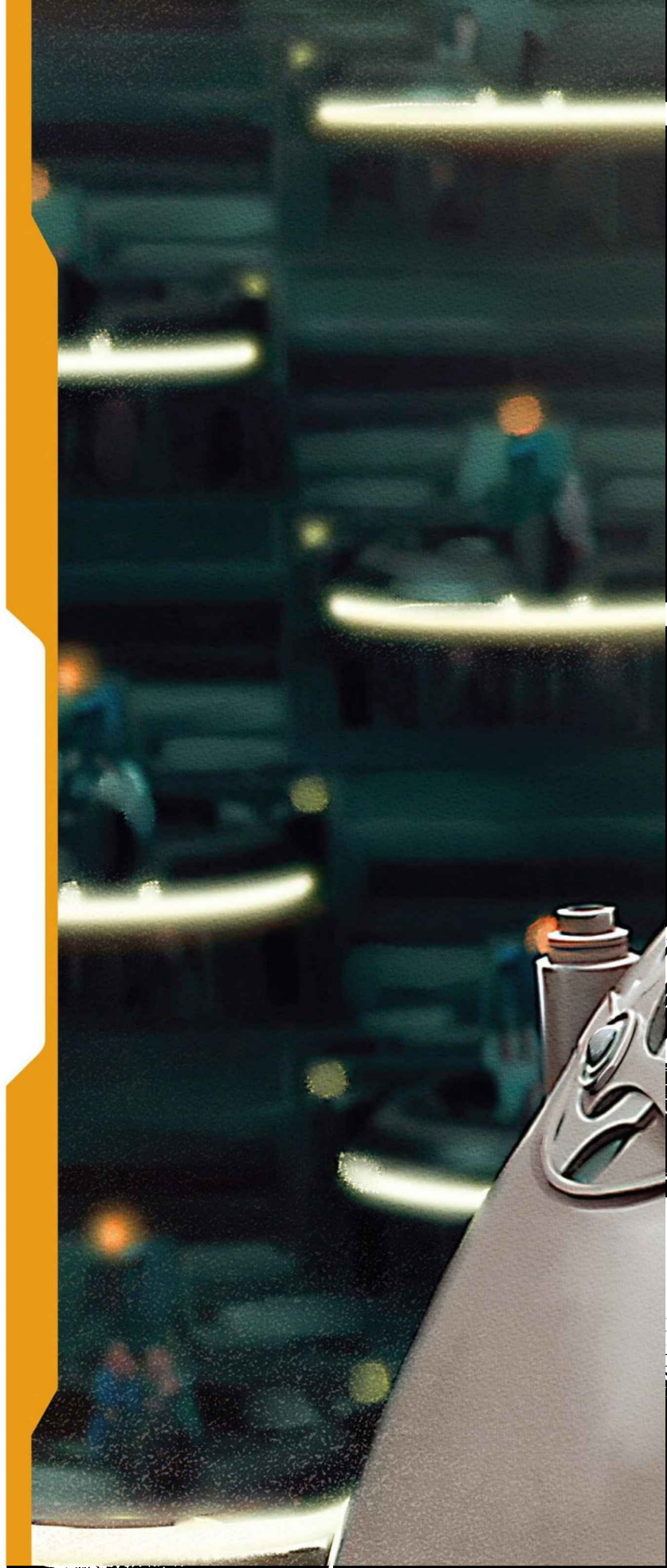
In the corner of the room, Jar Jar Binks took a deep breath. Senator Amidala had left him in charge as her representative. He knew what he had to do.

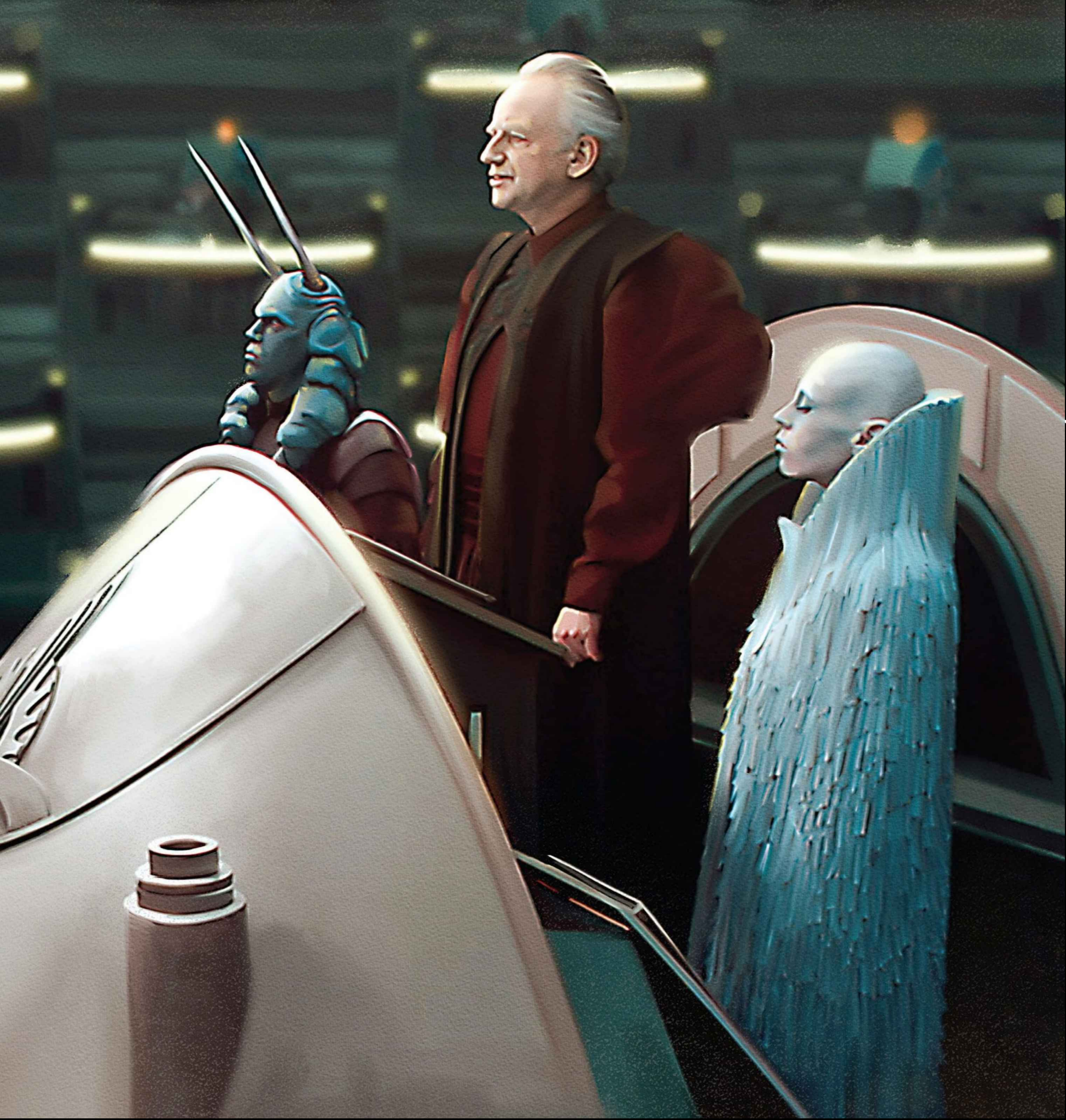


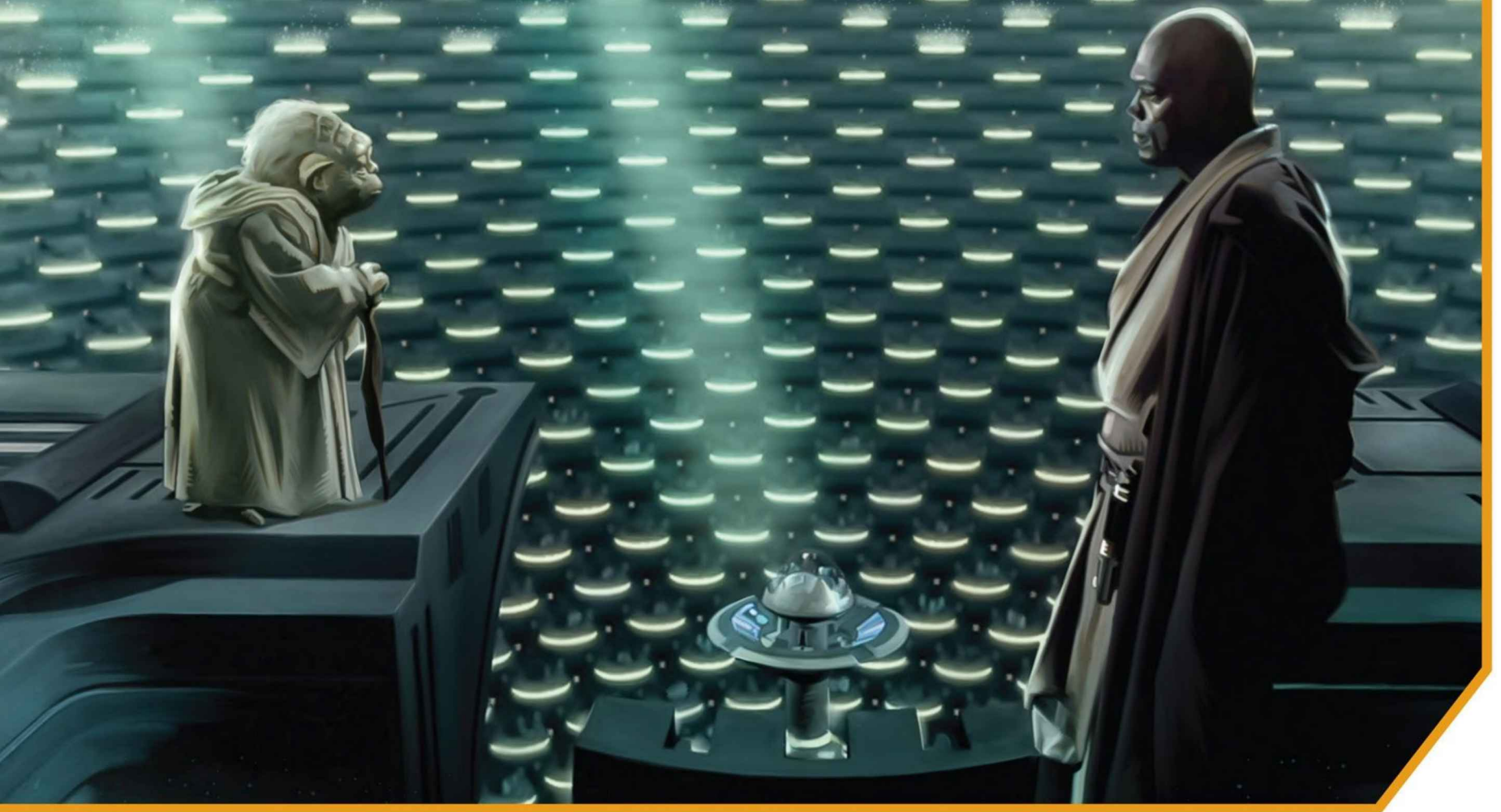
The next day, Jar Jar Binks addressed the Senate. "In response to the direct threat to the Republic, mesa propose that the Senate give immediately emergency powers to the Supreme Chancellor!"

Thunderous cheers echoed throughout the hall. All the senators agreed. This was an emergency.

Chancellor Palpatine stood. "The power you give me I will lay down when this crisis has ended, I promise you. As my first act with this new authority, I will create a grand army of the Republic to counter the increasing threats of the Separatists."







The entire Senate chamber burst into thunderous applause.

High above on a balcony, Jedi Masters Yoda and Mace Windu watched.

"It is done, then," said Mace Windu.

Though the Jedi had never intended to create a clone army, the Republic would use it to battle the Separatists and their droid soldiers.

Yoda and Mace Windu just hoped they wouldn't come to regret that decision.



INTO THE ARENA



An artistic illustration of Anakin Skywalker and Padmé Amidala walking across a stone bridge. Anakin is on the left, wearing a dark Jedi robe, and Padmé is on the right, wearing a white dress. They are walking away from the viewer towards the right. The background is a misty, hazy landscape with a large stone structure on the left. The entire scene is framed by a large, dark, triangular shape on the left side of the page.

INTO THE ARENA

Jedi in training Anakin Skywalker and Senator Padmé Amidala landed on Geonosis.

Anakin and Padmé had traveled to the mysterious planet in hopes of rescuing Anakin's Jedi mentor, Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Obi-Wan had been captured while investigating a Separatist plot to

assassinate Padmé and create a battle-droid army that would

overthrow the Galactic

Republic. It was up to

Padmé and Anakin to

find their friend before

he suffered a terrible

fate!



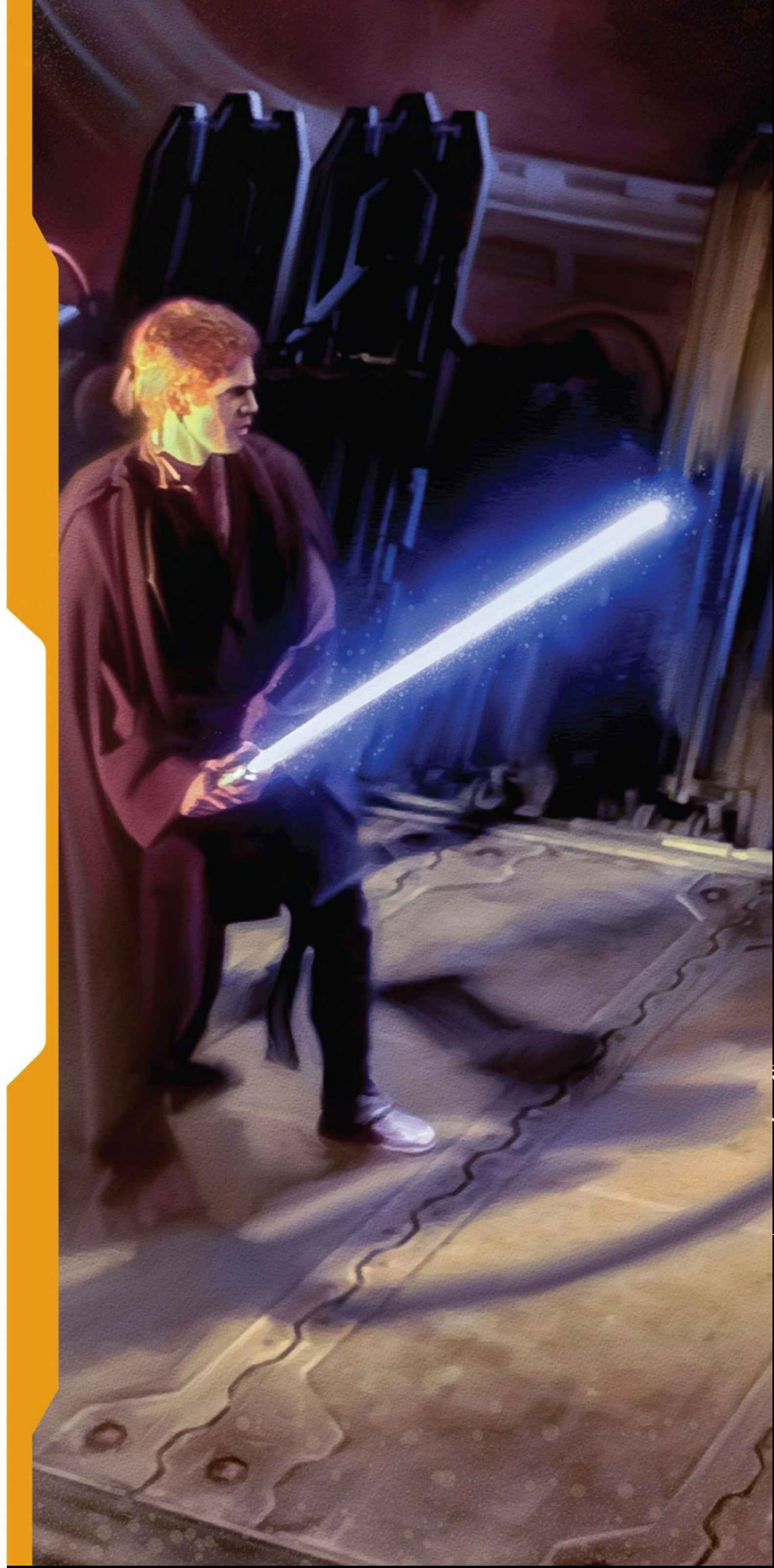


As Anakin and Padmé headed down a long pathway, winged creatures suddenly began to attack them! Lightsaber blazing, Anakin cut down the creatures as he and Padmé headed for safety. However, they soon found themselves on a short walkway extending over a maze of machinery.



Suddenly, the door behind them closed and the walkway started to retract. Padmé had no choice but to jump down onto one of the many conveyor belts that filled the droid factory and duck and dodge the dangerous machinery.

"Padmé!" the young Jedi shouted as he leapt down after her, using his lightsaber to disable the mechanical arms that grabbed for him.









Despite their heroic efforts, the pair were finally captured—Padmé by the winged creatures and Anakin by a group of destroyer droids.

Suddenly, an armored figure dropped from above, blaster in hand.

“Don’t move!” he shouted.

It was Jango Fett, the armored bounty hunter working for the Separatists!



As Anakin and Padmé awaited their fate, Anakin worried that Padmé was afraid.

"I'm not afraid to die," she said. "I've been dying a little bit each day since you came back into my life. . . . I love you."

"You love me?" Anakin was shocked, as Padmé had always said they could never be together.

"I truly, deeply love you," she replied.

The young couple strained against their bonds to share a kiss, just before they were carried out into a vast arena.





The crowd cheered as Anakin and Padmé were taken to the center of the arena and chained to posts alongside Obi-Wan Kenobi.

High above, Count Dooku and Jango Fett looked on as a thunderous announcement rang out across the arena: "Let the executions begin!"

Three large gates opened, and monstrous creatures—a giant bull of a reek, a catlike nexu, and a clawed beast called an acklay—were herded into the arena by spear-carrying guards. The trio of beasts began charging toward the prisoners, each choosing a specific target!

"I've got a bad feeling about this," said Anakin.

Obi-Wan urged calm to his Jedi apprentice, but Anakin was worried about Padmé—who had been targeted by the nexu—at least until he saw that she had already freed one of her hands, using a bit of wire she had hidden before their capture. Still trapped by a length of chain attached to one wrist, she had climbed to the top of her post, playing a game of cat and mouse as she landed swift blows on the nexu with her restraints.

As for Anakin, he used his Jedi training to evade the reek long enough to turn his chain into reins that could steer the giant beast.

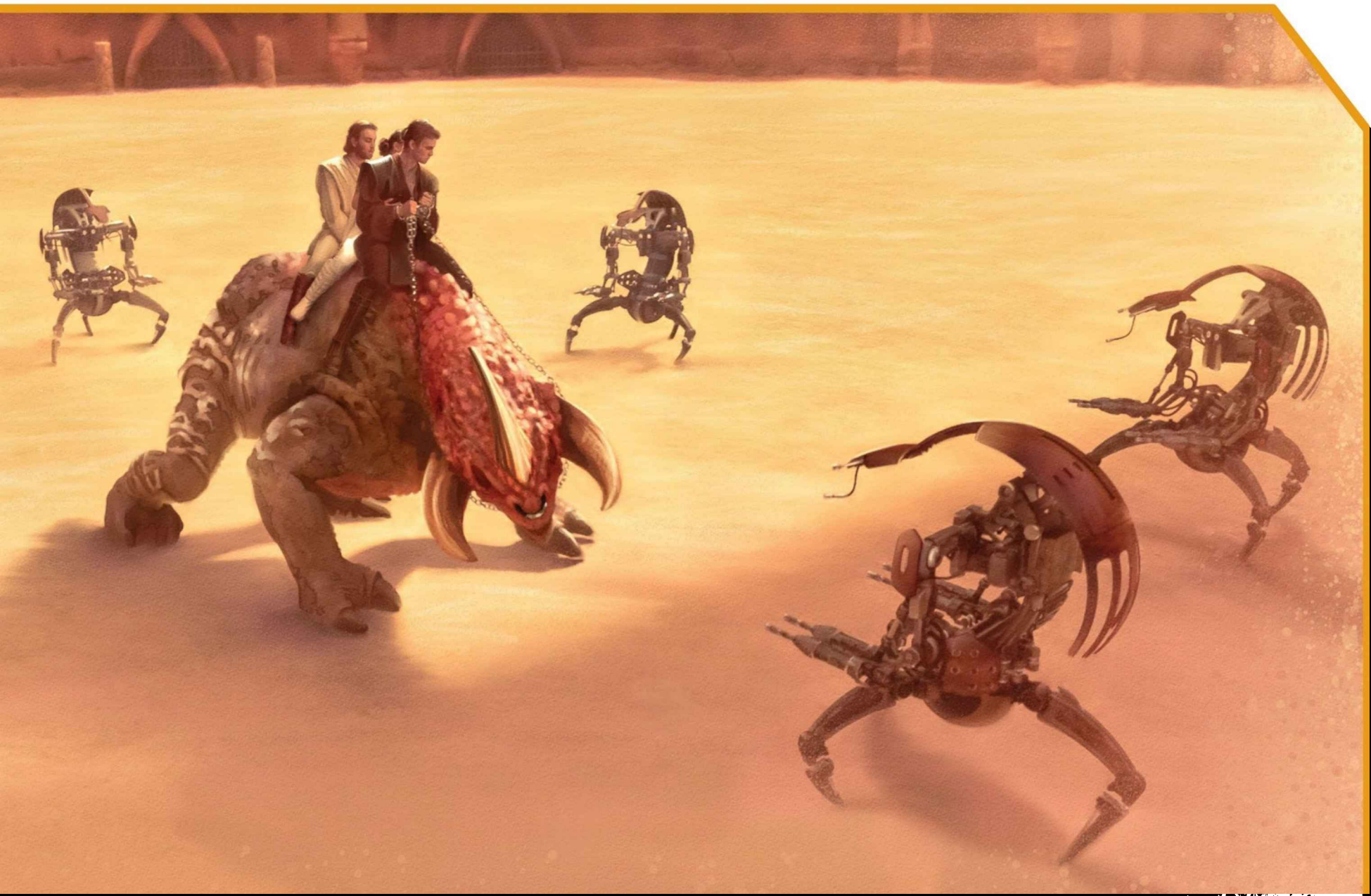
Meanwhile, Obi-Wan used the acklay's charging attack to his advantage, freeing himself just before the beast knocked down his post! Quickly grabbing one of the guards' herding spears, he faced off against the monster!





Padmé, having managed to pull free from her chain, climbed on top of the reek with Anakin. Obi-Wan joined them once he had managed to disable the acklay.

But Count Dooku wouldn't let the three friends go so easily. He sent destroyer droids to surround Padmé and the Jedi.





Unnoticed during all the uproar, Jedi Master Mace Windu had arrived on Geonosis. He confronted Count Dooku and Jango Fett.

"This party's over," said Mace as one hundred Jedi Knights—who had taken strategic positions throughout the arena—revealed themselves by igniting their lightsabers.

Count Dooku sneered at the Jedi.

"Brave but foolish, my old friend," he said. "You're impossibly outnumbered."

In an instant, thousands of droids began to pour into the arena!

Frightened by the droids' sudden appearance, the remaining creatures began stampeding around the arena, trampling anyone in their path. Anakin, Padmé, Obi-Wan, and Mace Windu joined the fight between the Jedi and the droids, and the chaos quickly grew.

Back to back, with their lightsabers ablaze, Mace and Obi-Wan bravely defeated dozens and dozens of droids, but for every droid soldier they cut down, two others seemed to appear.

It began to look as though even the Force would not be enough to save them this time.





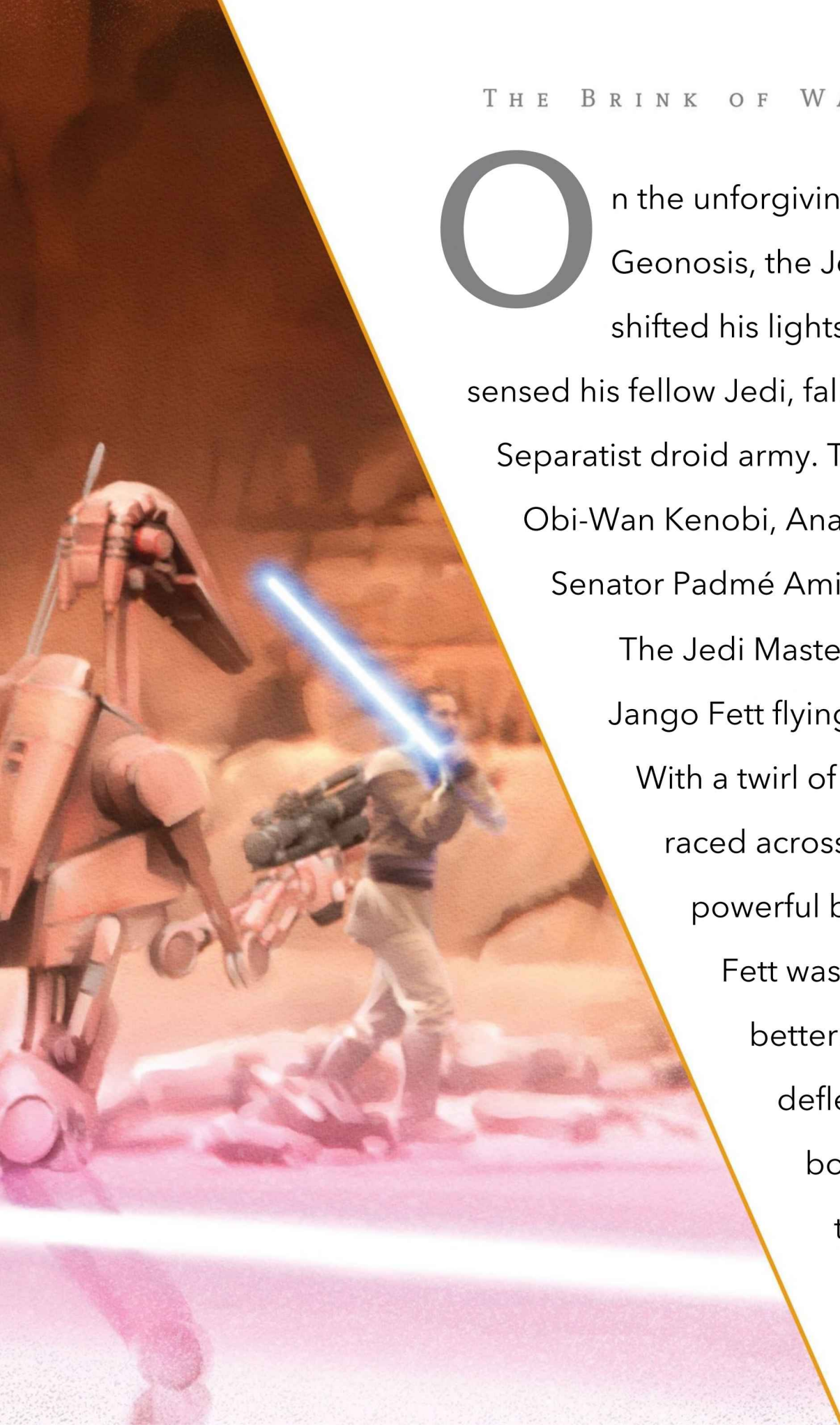
THE BRINK OF WAR



On the unforgiving desert planet of Geonosis, the Jedi Master Mace Windu shifted his lightsaber in his hand. He sensed his fellow Jedi, falling before the massive Separatist droid army. The rescue mission for Obi-Wan Kenobi, Anakin Skywalker, and Senator Padmé Amidala was not going well.

The Jedi Master looked up and saw Jango Fett flying down into the battle.

With a twirl of his lightsaber, Mace raced across the arena to face the powerful bounty hunter. Jango Fett was skilled, but Mace was better. The Jedi Master easily deflected Jango's blaster bolts and soon defeated the bounty hunter.



But Mace's victory came too late. He fell back to join the small circle of remaining Jedi. There were so few, and the Separatist droid army just kept coming. The Separatist leader, Count Dooku, spoke from a high balcony.

"Mace Windu! You have fought gallantly, worthy of recognition in the archives of the Jedi Order. Now it is finished. Surrender, and your lives will be spared."

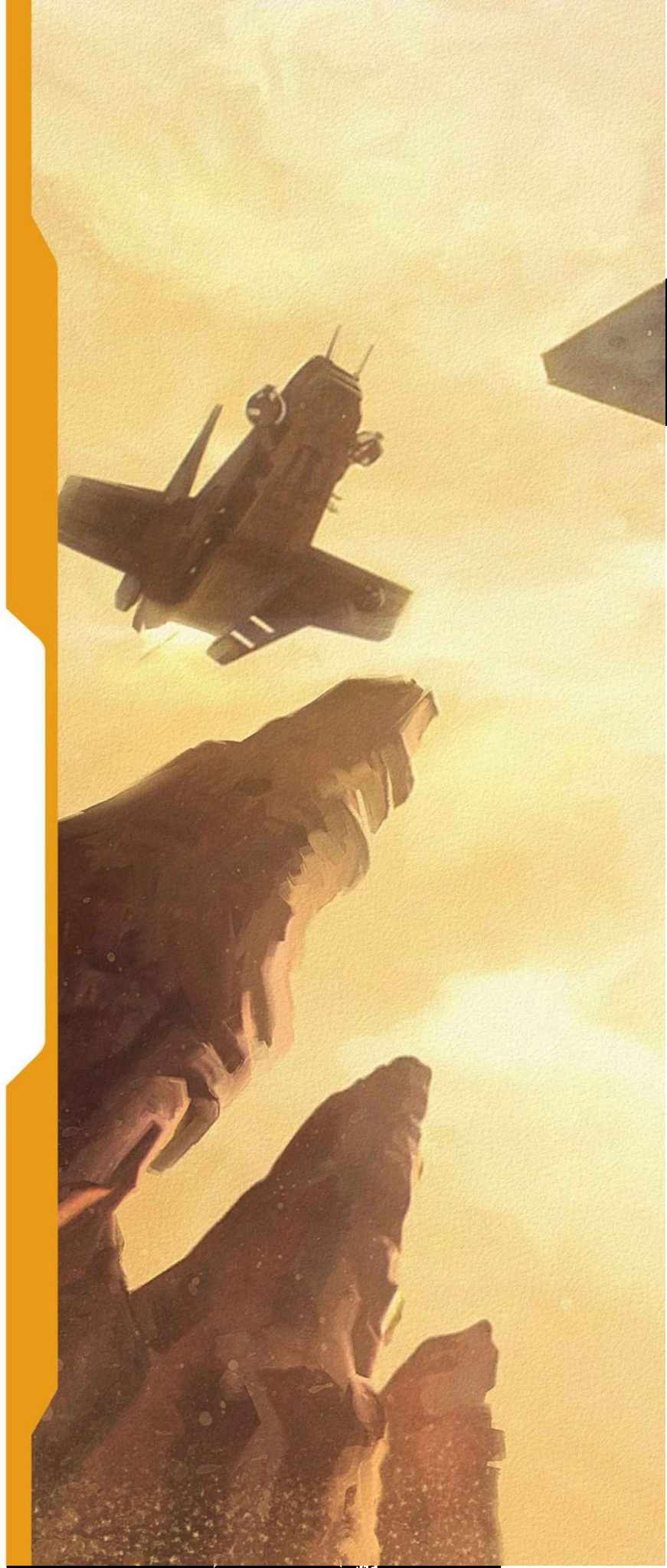
But Master Windu refused. He would not allow his fellow Jedi to become hostages for the Separatists to use against the Republic. The battle would end there.





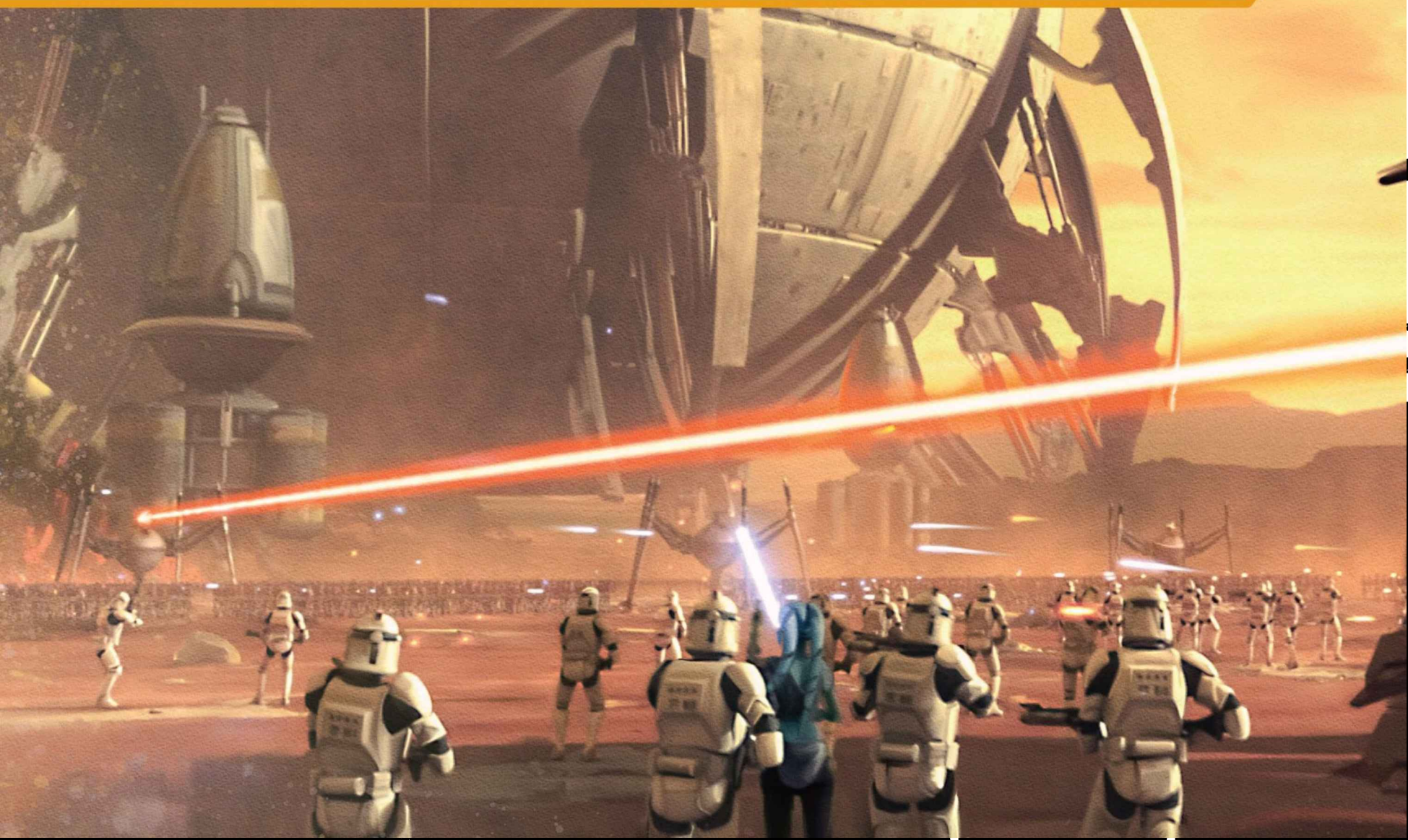
"Look!" Padmé yelled, breaking the standoff. Everyone looked up to see a new player ready to join the fight. It was the clone army—a force that Obi-Wan had only recently discovered and that had been secretly created for the Republic's use. At its head was Master Yoda!

"Around the survivors a perimeter create," the Jedi Master commanded his generals from a ship high above the fray.





Mace Windu ordered the Jedi to jump onto the ships as the clone army began its attack on the Separatists. The ships flew away from the arena and over Geonosis. Huge battle droids were clashing with the clone army war machines. Blaster fire rained down as massive ships fought for control of the desert planet. Mace realized that the battle was close to becoming a war.

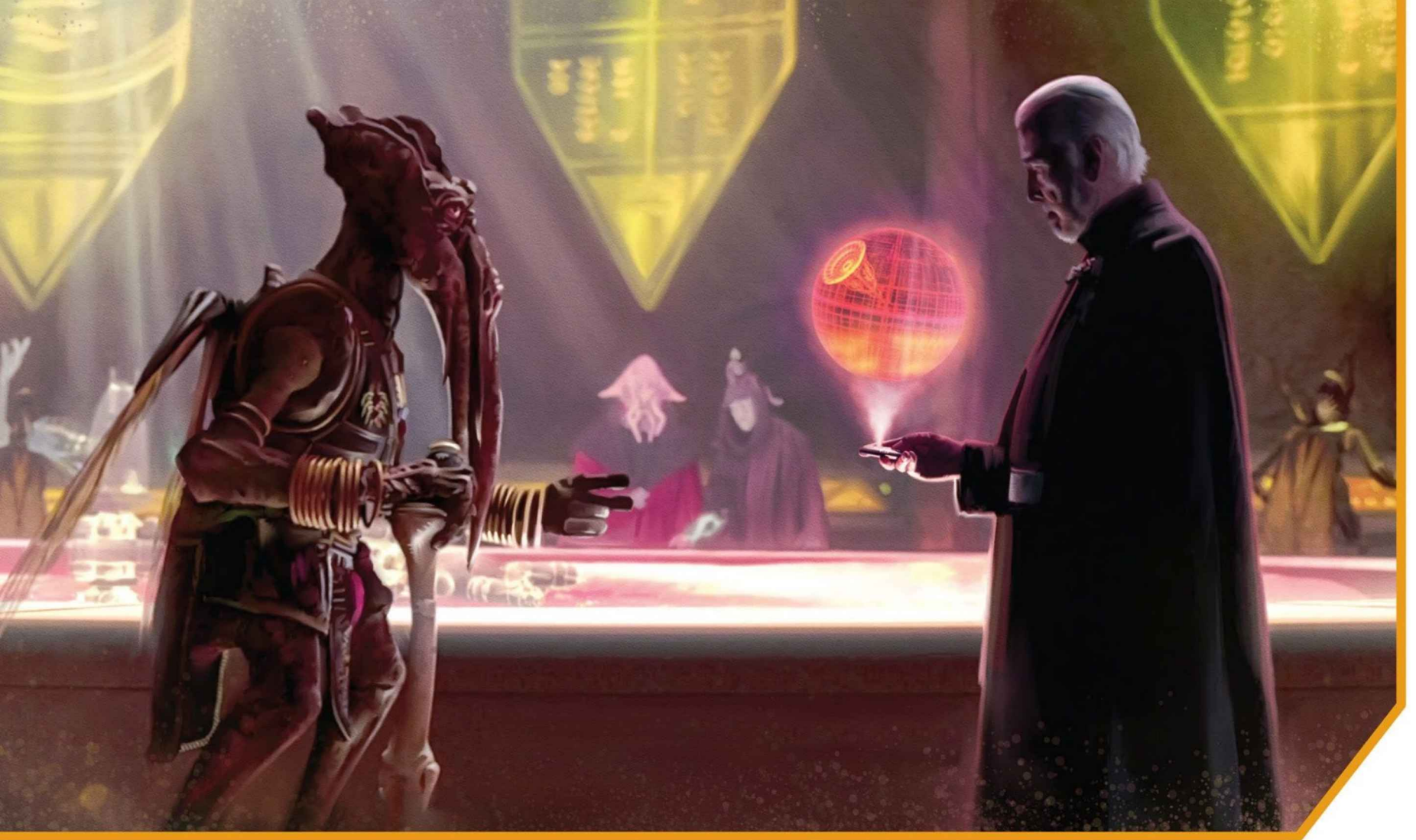


THE BRINK OF WAR

Master Yoda looked over at Mace. "If Dooku escapes, rally more systems to his cause he will."

Mace nodded. They had to find the Separatist leader. It was their only chance of ending the war before it began.





Count Dooku, however, was far out of reach of Mace Windu. But like his Jedi enemy, the Count was thinking about the future.

"The Jedi must not find our ultimate weapon," a Geonosian leader urged. "If they find out what we are planning to build we're doomed."

"I will take the designs with me to Coruscant," Count Dooku said. "They will be much safer there with my master." He pocketed the plans, knowing victory would be ensured if he could get off the planet.

THE BRINK OF WAR

But Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker were determined to stop the Count in his tracks.

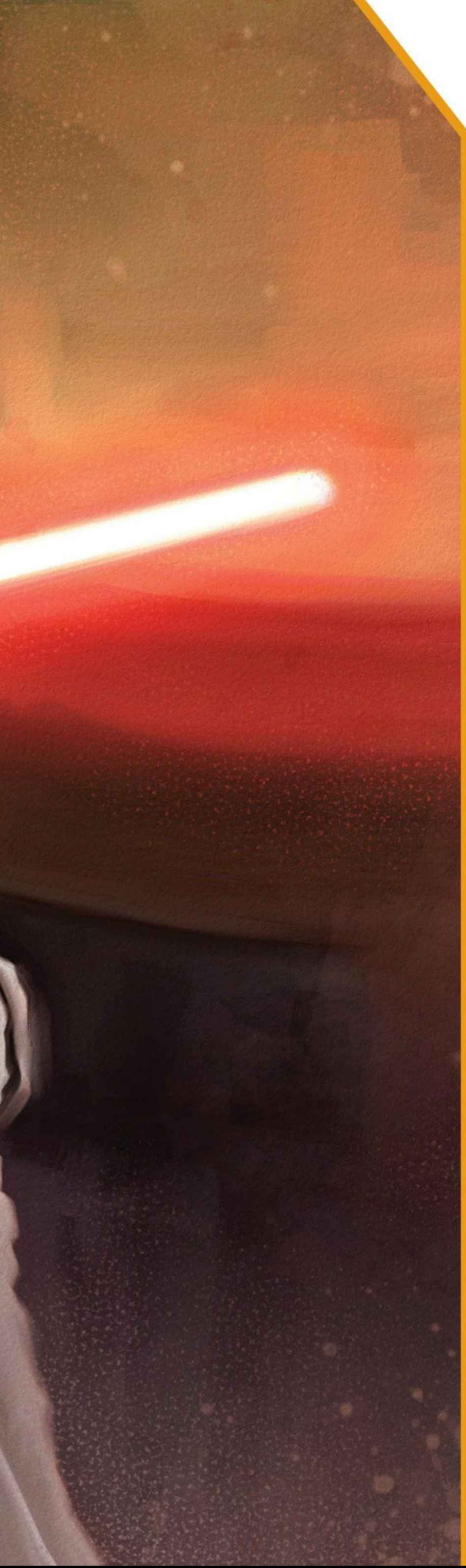
"You're going to pay for all the Jedi that you killed today, Dooku," said Anakin as he raced toward the Count with his lightsaber raised.

"Brave of you, boy," Count Dooku said.

The foes flew across the room, battling it out. But Anakin still had much to learn, and not even the seasoned Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi could defeat Count Dooku.







But there was another Jedi waiting in the wings.

It was Master Yoda.

"You have interfered with our affairs for the last time," Dooku said, sending rocks, heavy metal towers, and even Force lightning at the old Jedi.

"Much to learn you still have," Yoda told Dooku as he swatted aside each projectile.

"It is obvious that this contest cannot be decided by our knowledge of the Force, but by our skills with a lightsaber," Dooku replied.

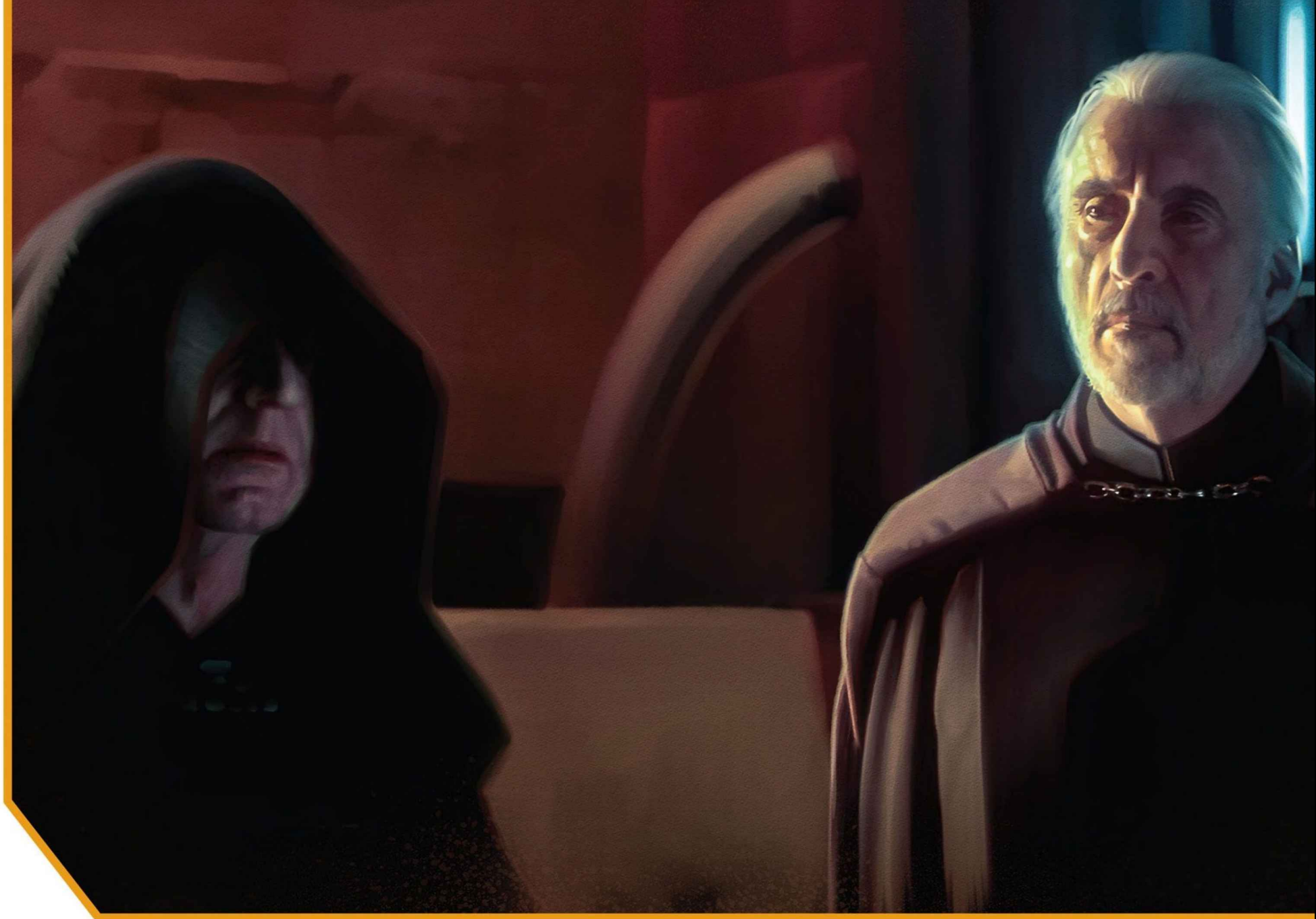
The Separatist leader leapt across the room toward the Jedi Master. Yoda's blade clashed again the Count's. Wherever Dooku's blade was, so was Yoda's. It was impossible for Dooku to create an opening.

"Fought well, you have, my old Padawan," Yoda said.

"This is just the beginning," Count Dooku told his old master. He broke away from the battle and reached his hand toward a large tower. It began to fall down, right on Obi-Wan and Anakin!

Yoda had no choice but to save his fellow Jedi. He sensed Dooku escaping as he used the Force to move the giant tower safely away from Obi-Wan and Anakin. War with the Separatists was inevitable.

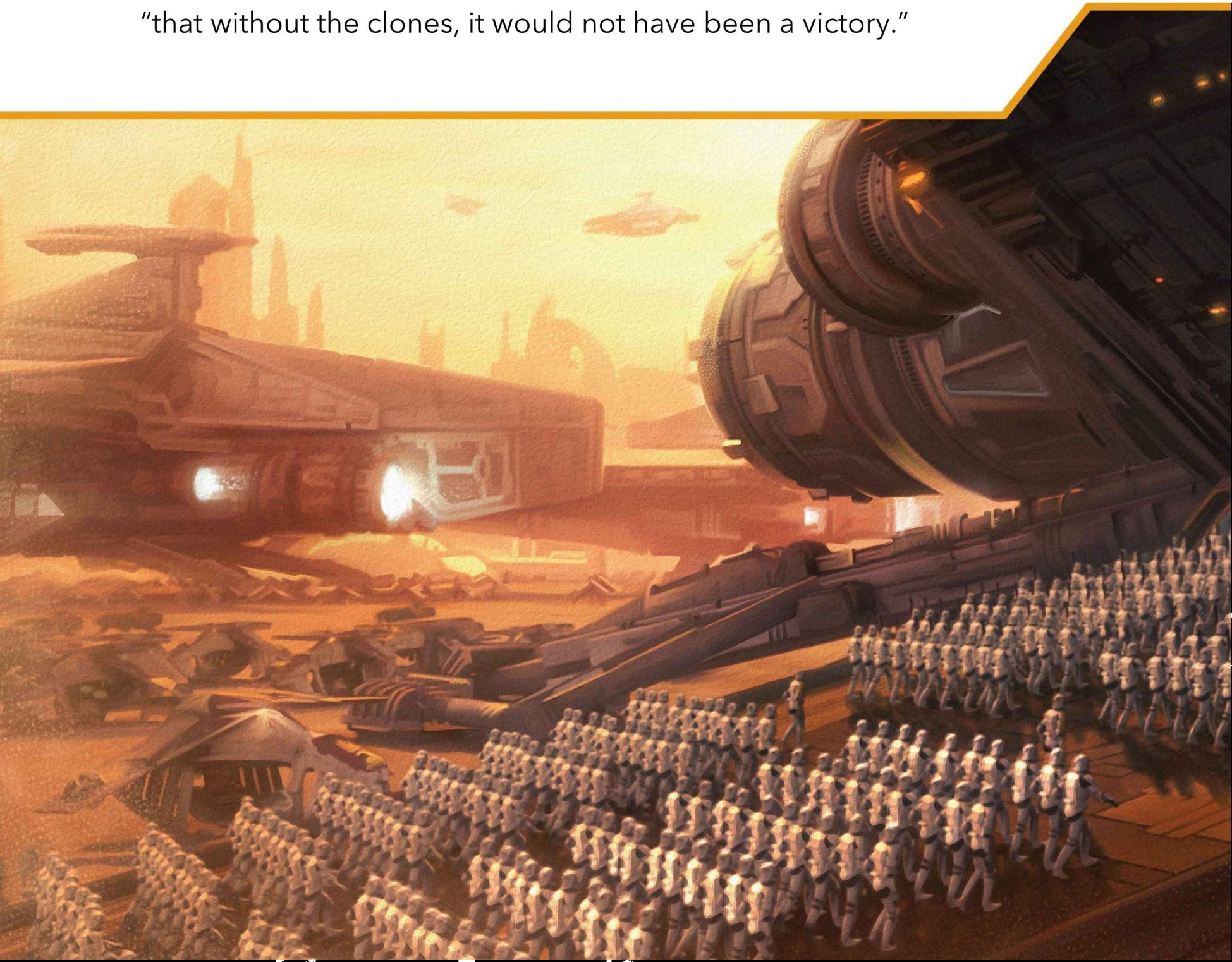




Count Dooku flew away from Geonosis and safely back to his master. "The Force is with us, Master Sidious," he told the powerful Sith. Count Dooku handed Darth Sidious the plans for the ultimate weapon. Once it was built, there would be little hope for the Republic.

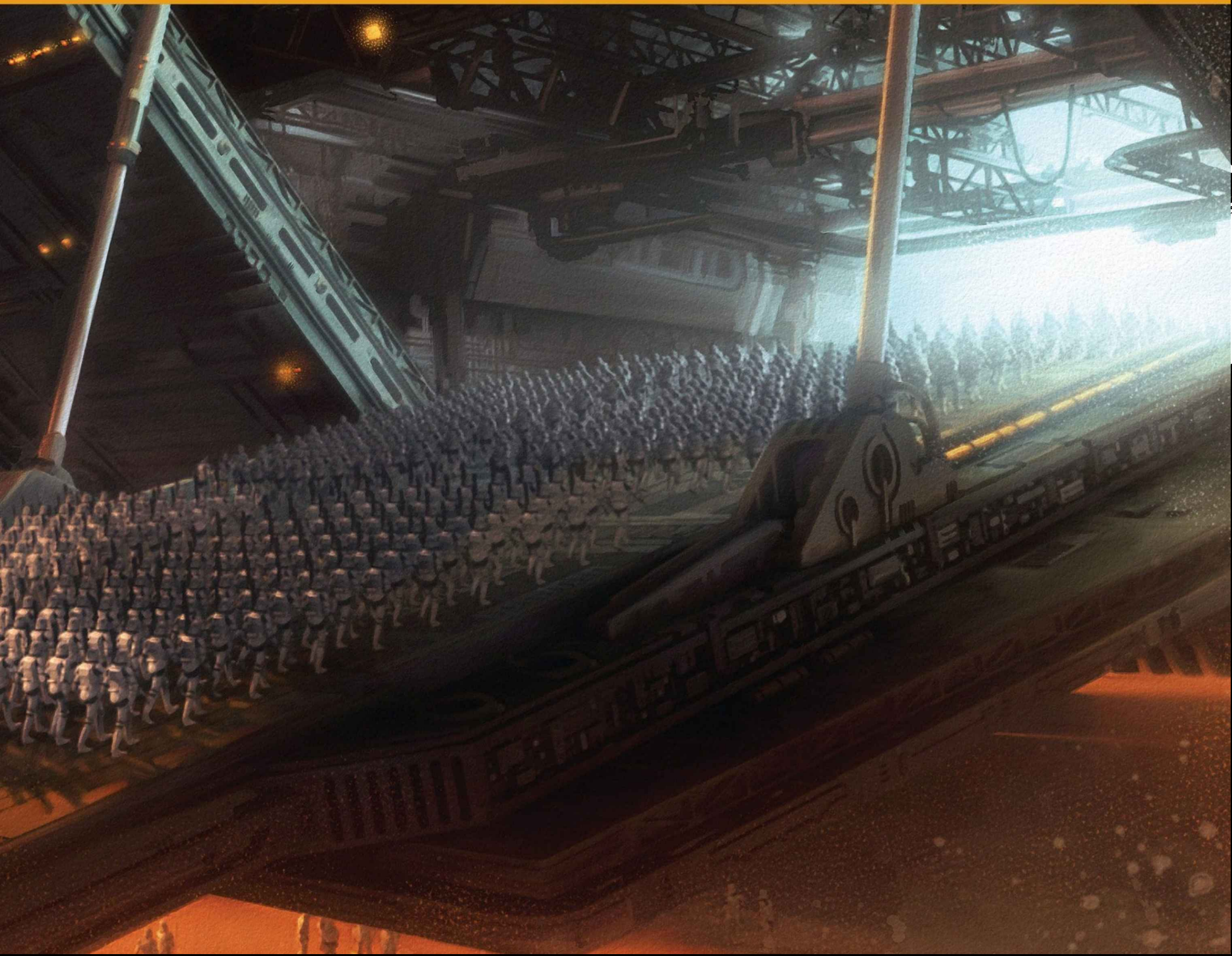
With Geonosis won, what was left of the Jedi forces regrouped on Coruscant.

"I have to admit," Obi-Wan told Mace Windu and Master Yoda, "that without the clones, it would not have been a victory."

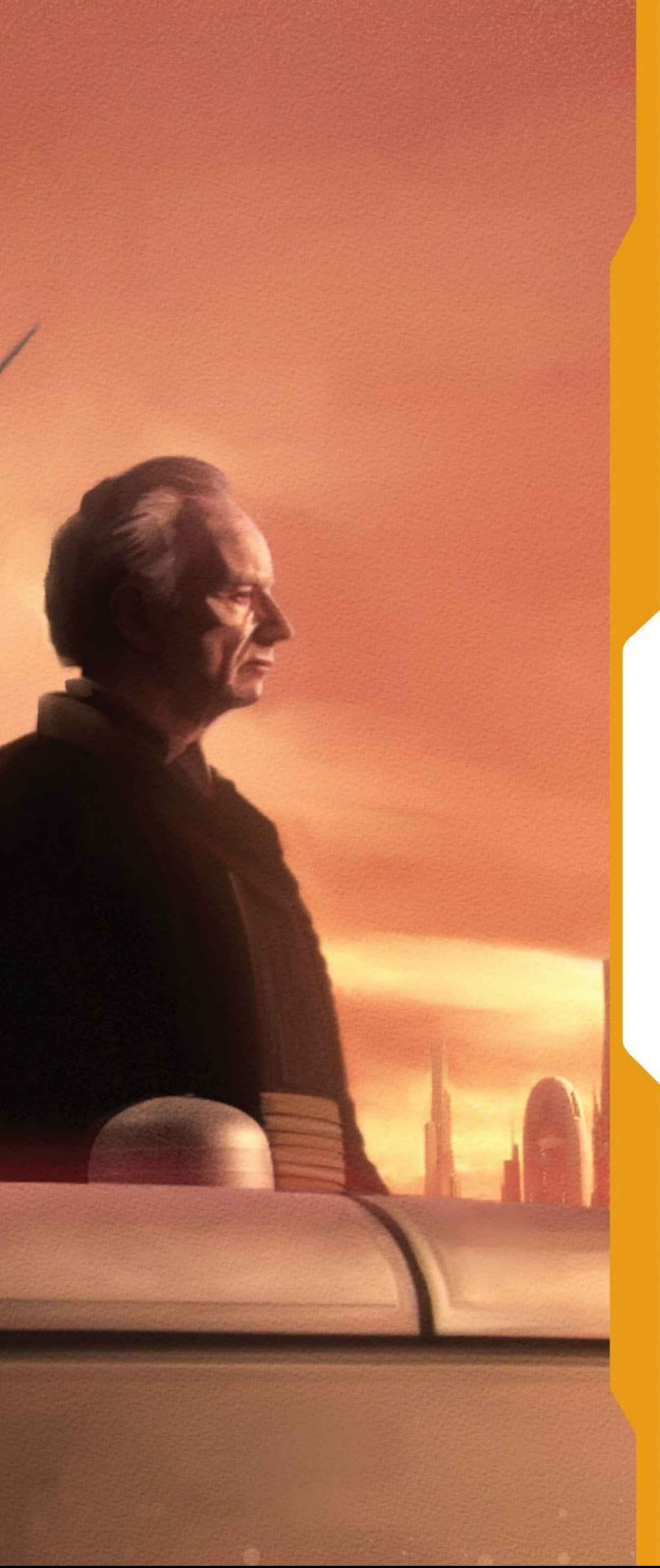


THE BRINK OF WAR

"Victory?" Yoda said. "Victory, you say? Master Obi-Wan, not victory. The shroud of the dark side has fallen. Begun, the Clone War has."





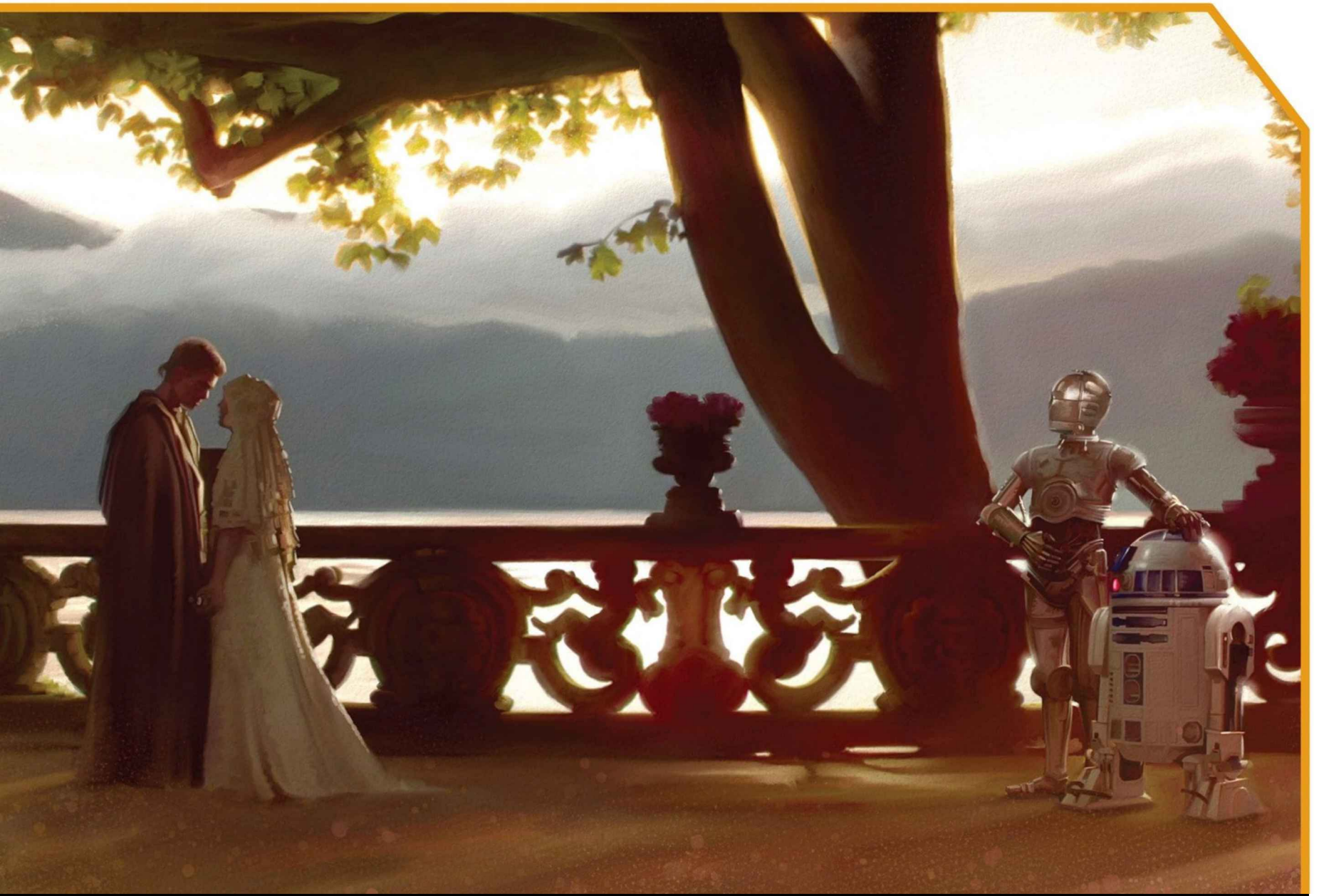


Master Yoda was right to worry. Count Dooku was missing, and the Jedi forces were weakened from the battle at Geonosis. Instead of leading missions of peace, the Jedi would be responsible for leading troops of warriors.

As the leader of the Senate, Chancellor Palpatine was now the head of a vast and powerful army. Yoda hoped he would use his power well and that peace would once again return to the galaxy.



And for one brief moment it did. In a secret ceremony, far away from any army—clone or droid—Anakin and Padmé were married. Now more than ever, the future was uncertain. But both the Jedi and the senator knew that together they were stronger. Together, they could face anything.





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